United Nations A/67/793–S/2013/151

General Assembly
Security Council

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General Assembly
Sixty-seventh session
Agenda item 105
Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Security Council
Sixty-eighth year

Identical letters dated 12 March 2013 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I wish to draw your attention to the following:

Increasing quantities of weapons have been provided directly to extremist terrorists of the Nusrah Front, who have been spreading terrorism in Syria, shedding Syrian blood, targeting the State apparatus and destroying infrastructure and public and private property. Drawing on an extremist *takfirist* ideology, they seek to thwart the comprehensive national dialogue that the Syrian leadership and Government are working to promote, which is the only solution to the crisis. The Syrian Government has sent you numerous letters detailing those practices, which fall under the definition of aggression contained in General Assembly resolution 3314 (XXIX). In particular, our letter of 6 March 2013 (A/67/873-S/2013/137) described the destabilizing role of the Turkish Government.

It is worth noting that the foreign-backed violence perpetrated by the armed terrorist groups has escalated in proportion to the progress made towards a political solution. While my country's Government has been working intensively to create the conditions and provide guarantees for national dialogue among Syrians, the pronouncements of United States officials have grown more strident, and the European Union and League of Arab States have called openly for the armed terrorist groups to receive greater military and logistical support. The groups' daily and systematic destruction of Syrian State facilities, using European weapons, is perhaps the clearest sign they are receiving weapons from those same States that maintain an arms embargo on Syria. Similarly, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Saudi Arabia, Saud Al-Faisal, stated last week that his country would continue to arm the terrorist groups in Syria. The Foreign Secretary of the United Kingdom, speaking before his country's Parliament, has referred to the training of armed men in Syria. The European Union has decided to sell, provide, transfer or export "non-lethal military equipment" to Syria, in another clear sign of its vaguely worded

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support for terrorists. Speaking in Saudi Arabia, the Secretary of State of the United States of America said that his country supported the transfer of weapons to "moderate groups", raising genuine questions about his country's commitment to a peaceful solution to the Syrian crisis and to combating terrorism, including the Nusrah Front, which it has defined as a branch of the terrorist organization Al-Qaida. At the same time, the European and international media have reported growing evidence that such countries as Saudi Arabia and Qatar are conveying to the terrorist groups consignments of weapons received from such States as Belgium, Croatia, Switzerland and the Ukraine; that Turkey has been sheltering and training terrorists and facilitating arms transfers into Syria; and that the European Union countries and the United States of America have allocated millions of dollars to military support, training and political cover for the groups. In yet another example, the League of Arab States adopted a resolution at the end of its meeting of 6 March 2013 that contravenes international law and the Charter of the United Nations to an unprecedented degree by enshrining "the right of all States, to the extent that they wish, to provide all forms of self-defence, including military support, to bolster the Syrian people and the Free Army".

Those practices, and the decisions taken by the regional organizations, point to a flagrant intervention in internal Syrian affairs and a blatant violation of the Charter and resolutions of the United Nations, the principles of international law and the role of regional organizations under the Charter. They clearly and overtly contravene the counter-terrorism resolutions of the Security Council and General Assembly, in particular Security Council resolution 1373 (2001).

The Syrian Arab Republic emphasizes that the insistence of certain Arab and Western States on supporting terrorism, which is responsible for the extensive destruction in Syria and the shedding of Syrian blood, will have grave repercussions. That situation calls into question their claim to support a peaceful solution to the crisis in Syria. An end to the violence of the armed terrorist groups is essential for the success of the national dialogue. The violence can be ended only by cutting off the terrorists' lifeline by putting pressure on the States that support terrorism in Syria, whether directly or through such misleading terms as "non-lethal military equipment", in pursuance of American plans inconsistent with any claim to support a political solution to the crisis. The Syrian Arabic Republic hopes that the Council will play an effective role in order to preserve the credibility of the international community in combating terrorism, ensure respect for its binding resolutions and enforce the Organization's commitment to support efforts to resolve the crisis through political means and national Syrian-led dialogue among Syrians.

I should be grateful if this letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 105, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Permanent Representative of the
Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations

United Nations S/2013/152

Security Council

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12 March 2013

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Letter dated 11 March 2013 from the Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

With grave concern over the abduction and detention of 21 Filipino peacekeepers in UNDOF by members of an armed group on 6 March, I have the honour to convey the Philippine Government's call to the Security Council to exert all efforts and use its influence on all parties to the conflict in Syria to:

- Ensure the freedom of movement and the safety and security of all UNDOF personnel consistent with obligations and commitments under international law
- Take measures to ensure that similar incidents are avoided in the future
- Cooperate with UNDOF in its operations to ensure that the mission is able to fulfil its mandate.

In the event that a similar incident involving peacekeepers from any United Nations peacekeeping mission occurs, the Philippines asks the Security Council to ensure that a mechanism is in place that guarantees open, active and transparent dialogue between troop-contributing countries of that mission and the Security Council.

I have the further honour to request that this letter be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Libran N. **Cabactulan**
Permanent Representative

13-25748 (E) 130313

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United Nations A/67/790–S/2013/153

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
13 March 2013

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General Assembly
Sixty-seventh session
Agenda items 33 and 34

Prevention of armed conflict

Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

Security Council
Sixty-eighth year

Letter dated 11 March 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to draw your attention to the ongoing violations of the ceasefire by the armed forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan recorded for the month of February 2013 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 33 and 34, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Garen **Nazarian**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

13-25993 (E) 200313

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Annex to the letter dated 11 March 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Violations of the ceasefire by the armed forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan, 1-28 February 2013

1: On the border of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic:

Total number of violations — 1,173

Total number of shots ~ 4,544

AK ~ 2,950, PK ~ 919, SVD ~ 467, DSHK ~ 124, RPK ~ 13, Black Arrow ~ 15, Istiglal ~ 36, Utyos ~ 20

2: On the border of the Republic of Armenia (see table below):

Total number of violations — 239

Total number of shots ~ 10,133

AK ~ 727, PK ~ 3,993, SVD ~ 266, DSHK ~ 2,690, RPK ~ 15, Istiglal ~ 11, Black Arrow ~ 56, Utyos ~ 23,751

No.	*Date*	*Direction*	*Time*	*Type of weapon*	*Ammunition*	*Results of Violations*
1.	2 February	Aygedzor	1245	PK	20	
2.	4 February	Voskepar	0145	AK	6	
3.		Movses	1130	DSHK	1	
4.		Sevakavan	2330	AK	4	
5.	5 February	Chinari	1130	PK	20	
6.		Movses	1550	AK	1	
7.		N. Karmiraghbyur	2225	PK	1	
8.			2345		1	
9.		Vazashen	2310	AK	20	
10.		Khachik	2235	AK	4	
11.	6 February	Movses	0150	AK	2	
12.			2200	AK	2	
13.		Chinari	1000	AK	90	
14.				PK	30	

Abbreviations: PK, Kalashnikov machine gun; SVD, 7.9-mm sniper weapon; AK, Kalashnikov rifle; DSHK, 12.7-mm machine gun; RPK, 5.45-mm machine gun; Istiglal, 14.5-mm machine gun; Black Arrow, 12.7-mm sniper weapon; Utyos, 12.7-mm machine gun.

No.	Date	Direction	Time	Type of weapon	Ammunition	Results of Violations
15.			1150	Black Arrow	5	
16.				PK	30	
17.			1650	Black Arrow	2	
18.			2045	Black Arrow	3	
19.		Aygedzor	2050	PK	7	
20.				SVD	4	
21.			2100	SVD	2	
22.			2115	SVD	4	
23.		Baghanis	2110	AK	20	
24.	7 February	Voskepar	0730	AK	4	
25.		Aygepar	1100	AK	14	
26.			1220	AK	1	
27.	8 February	Aygepar	1040	AK	2	
28.			1325	PK	6	
29.				SVD	3	
30.		Movses	1350	DSHK	5	
31.		Chinari	2030	SVD	4	
32.	9 February	Movses	0905	SVD	1	Private Mher Eghshatyan was fatally wounded by the Azerbaijani side at 0905 hours in combat position near the village of Movses at the border with Azerbaijan
33.			1610	AK	1	
34.			1750	DSHK	25	
35.			1830	DSHK	125	
36.			1835	DSHK	160	
37.		Chinari	1550	AK	3	
38.			1630	Black Arrow	1	
39.			1850	SVD	12	
40.		Aygepar	1610	DSHK	2	
41.				Black Arrow	4	
42.			1750	DSHK	50	
43.		Baghanis	1850	AK	3	

No.	*Date*	*Direction*	*Time*	*Type of weapon*	*Ammunition*	*Results of Violations*
44.		Omar	2030-2100	PK	15	
45.				SVD	20	
46.				PK	20	
47.				SVD	10	
48.		Berdavan	2230	AK	8	
49.	10 February	Chinari	0020	AK	3	
50.		Aygepar	0100	AK	1	
51.		Berdavan	0130	AK	3	
52.		Vazashen	0440	AK	10	
53.		Movses	1145	PK	3	
54.		Omar	1700-2100	SVD	18	
55.				Black Arrow	11	
56.				PK	35	
57.		Paravaqar	2100	AK	3	
58.		Voskevan	2345	AK	8	
59.	11 February	Aygepar	1010	SVD	5	
60.			1015	Istiglal	2	
61.			1020	SVD	3	
62.			1030	Istiglal	6	
63.			1055	Istiglal	3	
64.			1215	AK	3	
65.			1330	PK	3	
66.			2020	PK	1	
67.		Chinari	1150	SVD	5	
68.	12 February	Aygepar	0800	PK	2	Private Gevork Meliqbekyan was wounded by the Azerbaijani side at 2000 hours in combat position near the village of Aygepar at the
69.			1930	AK	2	
70.			2000	SVD	1	
71.			2025	PK	300	
72.			2115-2130	PK	100	

No.	Date	Direction	Time	Type of weapon	Ammunition	Results of Violations
73.				DSHK	10	border with Azerbaijan
74.				AK	90	
75.			2145	PK	90	
76.				DSHK	30	
77.			2210	DSHK	215	
78.			2235-2350	DSHK	450	
79.				PK	400	
80.		Khachik	1320	AK	2	
81.		Movses	1340	SVD	4	
82.			2235-2350	DSHK	280	
83.				PK	800	
84.		Chinari	1550	Black Arrow	6	
85.			2245	PK	8	
86.				AK	3	
87.		N. Karmiraghbyur	2135	DSHK	5	
88.			2235-2350	DSHK	800	
89.				PK	330	
90.		Voskepar	2120	AK	7	
91.			2130	PK	23	
92.	13 February	Aygepar	0220	DSHK	3	
93.			1415	AK	2	
94.		Movses	1720	SVD	3	
95.			2330	DSHK	4	
96.		Sevqar	2220	AK	3	
97.		Berdavan	2345	AK	20	
98.	14 February	Aygepar	0400	AK	2	
99.			1420	AK	1	
100.		Chinari	1020	Black Arrow	2	
101.			1620	SVD	2	

No.	*Date*	*Direction*	*Time*	*Type of weapon*	*Ammunition*	*Results of Violations*
102.			2310	SVD	7	
103.				PK	6	
104.				SVD	4	
105.				Black Arrow	2	
106.		Berdavan	1340	PK	4	
107.				SVD	5	
108.		Berqaber	1440	SVD	5	
109.				PK	3	
110.	15 February	Voskevan	0030	AK	5	Private Erem Asatryan was wounded by the Azerbaijani side at 1350 hours in combat position near the village of Kuropatkino at the border with Azerbaijan
111.		Aygepar	0530	AK	1	
112.			2200	AK	1	
113.		Chinari	1330	AK	1	
114.			1700	SVD	8	
115.			2220	SVD	8	
116.			2305	SVD	2	
117.		Movses	1700	AK	2	
118.		Berdavan	1700	AK	2	
119.				SVD	1	
120.			1920	PK	15	
121.	16 February	Berdavan	0000	PK	5	
122.		Aygepar	0110	AK	1	
123.		Chinari	1100	Black Arrow	3	
124.			1300	AK	5	
125.			1730	AK	2	
126.			2100	SVD	8	
127.		Barekamavan	1315	Black Arrow	10	
128.			1835	Black Arrow	5	
129.		Barcruni	2105	Black Arrow	2	

No.	Date	Direction	Time	Type of weapon	Ammunition	Results of Violations
130.	17 February	Aygepar	1105	PK	3	
131.			1045	PK	4	
132.		Movses	1105	SVD	1	
133.			2055	AK	2	
134.		Chinari	1130	AK	1	
135.			1805	SVD	1	
136.			1910	PK	5	
137.			2330	SVD	2	
138.	18 February	Aygepar	0005	AK	1	Private Hambarcum Petrosyan was wounded as a result of the attack of an Azerbaijani diversion group at 0140 hours in combat position near the village of Ashaghi Seydakhmedli at the border with Azerbaijan
139.			1200	AK	3	
140.			1450	AK	3	
141.			1140	AK	2	
142.		Chinari	1900	PK	10	
143.			2050	SVD	2	
144.	19 February	N. Karmiraghbyur	0030	AK	3	Private Gor Ghazaryan was fatally wounded by the Azerbaijani side at 1335 hours in combat position near the village of Talish at the border with Azerbaijan
145.		Movses	1330	AK	2	
146.		Voskepar	2120	PK	15	
147.		Chinari	2310	AK	10	
148.	20 February	Aygepar	1055	AK	2	Civilian David Gabrielyan was wounded by the Azerbaijani side at 1055 hours in the village of
149.			1615	PK	10	
150.			1715	PK	4	
151.		Chinari	1200	SVD	6	

No.	*Date*	*Direction*	*Time*	*Type of weapon*	*Ammunition*	*Results of Violations*
152.			1310	SVD	5	Aygepar while conducting agricultural activities
153.		Berdavan	1405	SVD	3	
154.		Vazashen	1425	AK	6	
155.			1500	AK	50	
156.		N. Karmiraghbyur	2340	AK	1	
157.	21 February	Aygepar (different locations)	0340	AK	1	
158.			1940	Utyos	125	
159.				PK	100	
160.			2000-2030	Utyos	310	
161.			2030-2100	Utyos	110	
162.			2130-2200	Utyos	125	
163.			2200-2300	DSHK	165	
164.				PK	200	
165.		Berqaber	0520	AK	4	
166.		Kiranc		AK	5	
167.		Chinari	1115	RPK	6	
168.		Movses (different locations)	1220		2	
169.			1900		4	
170.			1915	Utyos	40	
171.				PK	10	
172.			1940	PK	20	
173.				Utyos	50	
174.			2000-2030	Utyos	110	
175.			2030-2100		175	
176.			2130-2200		140	

No.	Date	Direction	Time	Type of weapon	Ammunition	Results of Violations
177.			2200-2300	PK	30	
178.		N. Karmiraghbyur (different locations)	1845	SVD	1	
179.			1915	PK	60	
180.				Utyos	20	
181.			1940	Utyos	470	
182.				PK	150	
183.			2000-2030	Utyos	320	
184.				PK	100	
185.			2030-2100	Utyos	205	
186.				PK	90	
187.			2130-2200	Utyos	175	
188.				PK	70	
189.			2200-2300	DSHK	280	
190.				PK	395	
191.	22 February	Berdavan	1250	AK	5	
192.		Dovegh	1335	SVD	1	
193.	23 February	N. Karmiraghbyur	0910	AK	1	
194.		Vazashen	1620	SVD	10	
195.				PK	5	
196.		Berdavan	1435	AK	11	
197.				SVD	4	
198.			2205	AK	20	
199.			1520	PK	20	
200.		Barekamavan	1450	PK	80	
201.				SVD	20	
202.				DSHK	30	
203.			1525	PK	70	
204.				SVD	40	

No.	*Date*	*Direction*	*Time*	*Type of weapon*	*Ammunition*	*Results of Violations*
205.				DSHK	50	
206.	24 February	Aygepar	0130	AK	9	
207.			2330		1	
208.		Movses	1135	PK	1	
209.		Vazashen	1620	SVD	2	
210.		Eraskh	1843		2	
211.		Koti	2005	AK	3	
212.	25 February	Aygepar	0340	AK	3	
213.			0400	PK	10	
214.			2025		3	
215.			2140		16	
216.			2200		203	
217.				AK	100	
218.			2250	PK	1	
219.	26 February	Vazashen	1745	AK	6	
220.		Movses	1915	AK	1	
221.		Chinari	2100	SVD	5	
222.		Aygepar	2200	AK	2	
223.		Barcruni	2245	RPK	3	
224.	27 February	Arcvaberd	0830	SVD	1	
225.		Berdavan	1340	AK	25	
226.				PK	15	
227.				SVD	5	
228.			2350	PK	15	
229.				SVD	6	
230.		Aygepar	1750	AK	1	
231.		Paravaqar	1825	AK	3	
232.		Berqaber	2000	AK	2	
233.			2055	PK	7	

No.	*Date*	*Direction*	*Time*	*Type of weapon*	*Ammunition*	*Results of Violations*
234.		Vazashen	2030	AK	15	
235.		Movses	2100	AK	3	
236.	28 February	Chinari	1950	PK	8	
237.			2030	AK	20	
238.		Aygepar	2010	AK	4	
239.		N. Karmiraghbyur	2030	AK	13	

United Nations S/2013/154

Security Council

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Second report of the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 6 of resolution 2061 (2012)

I. Introduction

1. In paragraph 6 of its resolution 2061 (2012), the Security Council requested me to report to it every four months on the progress made towards the fulfilment of the responsibilities of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI). The current report is the second submitted pursuant to that resolution. It covers key political and security developments as well as regional and international events concerning Iraq and provides an update on the activities of the United Nations in Iraq since the issuance of my previous report, dated 16 November 2012 (S/2012/848).

II. Summary of key political developments pertaining to Iraq

A. Internal developments

2. While all members of the national partnership Government continued to stress their goodwill and commitment towards building a peaceful and non-sectarian future for Iraq, political tensions and security incidents intensified during the reporting period. In late November, relations between the Government of Iraq and the Kurdistan Regional Government deteriorated over the issue of security coordination in the disputed territories, and the protests that erupted in several governorates in late December have presented major challenges for the Government of Iraq ahead of the upcoming governorate council elections.

3. Relations between the Government of Iraq and the Kurdistan Regional Government have been sharply strained by the decision of the Government of Iraq to establish the Dijla (Tigris) Operations Command in the areas of disputed internal boundaries. On 16 November, in Tuz Khurmatu, one of the disputed areas in Salah ad-Din Province, the Iraqi army's attempt to implement an arrest warrant against a Kurdish suspect resulted in the death of 1 civilian and 18 injured. This led to the deployment of additional Iraqi army and Peshmerga forces in Tuz Khurmatu and Kirkuk. On 10 December, the President of the Kurdistan Regional Government, Massoud Barzani, visited the city of Kirkuk to inspect the Peshmerga forces.

4. On 13 December, President Jalal Talabani announced an agreement between the Government of Iraq and the Kurdistan Regional Government to replace

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Peshmerga and Iraqi military forces with a local force comprising Arabs, Kurds and Turkmen, without a clear timeline for implementation. On 17 December, President Talabani suffered a stroke and since 20 December has been convalescing outside of Iraq. His absence has left a leadership gap in the dialogue between the central and regional governments. On 26 December, negotiations resumed between the Ministry of Defence and the Peshmerga ministry of the Kurdistan Regional Government. In late January, a joint committee began steps towards a mutual withdrawal of troops and implementation of a joint security agreement. On 27 January, the committee put on hold all military movements while negotiations continued on the future locations of combined coordination centres or modalities for the withdrawal of troops.

5. The tense situation in the disputed areas was accompanied by an increase in security incidents. Two Turkmen schoolteachers were kidnapped on 17 December, and their bodies were found two days later. The investigation is ongoing. On 16 January, the offices of the Kurdistan Democratic Party and the Kurdistan Patriotic Union in Kirkuk were hit in a suicide attack. On 23 January, an attack on a mosque in Tuz Khurmatu led to renewed calls by Turkmen political parties for the establishment of a Turkmen security force. On 3 February, coordinated attacks on the police headquarters in Kirkuk resulted in 33 dead and 90 wounded, and on 18 February, multiple explosions in Kirkuk resulted in one death and several injuries.

6. Kurdistan opposition parties have increasingly alleged that the Kurdistan Democratic Party and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan are monopolizing power in the region. On 17 January, President Barzani met with a delegation of leaders of the Gorran party, the Kurdistan Islamic Union and the Kurdistan Islamic Group, which proposed to change the presidential system in the Kurdistan Region to a parliamentary system. On 30 January, the opposition declined a proposal by the Kurdistan Democratic Party and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan to join the Regional Government.

7. On 4 December, the State of Law Coalition suggested reducing the Kurdistan Regional Government's share of the national budget from 17 per cent to 13 per cent. The demand by the Regional Government that Peshmerga salaries be paid by the Government of Iraq has yet to be accepted. In addition, Iraqiya's demand that some allocations for the Council of Ministers secretariat be diverted into capital investments has stalled the adoption of the budget for 2013. There is agreement, however, among the parliamentary blocs to maintain the status quo regarding the Kurdistan Regional Government's share of the national budget and that a census should serve as a basis for future estimates.

8. On 20 December, several members of the security detail of Iraqiya Finance Minister Rafi al-Issawi were arrested on terrorism charges. In response, protests broke out on 23 December in Anbar Province, blocking the main highway to the Syrian Arab Republic and Jordan. By 4 January, demonstrations spread to Anbar, Salah ad-Din, Ninewa and Diyala Provinces and in northern Baghdad, while several counterdemonstrations were held in the capital and southern governorates, including Karbala, Muthanna, Qadissiyah and Basra Provinces. Those events have increased concern across the political spectrum about the risk of the radicalization of politics along sectarian lines.

9. On 6 January, the demonstrators issued a list of demands, focusing largely on the implementation of the rule of law and governance, including the suspension or

abolition of article 4 of the Anti-Terrorism Law, parliamentary adoption of the General Amnesty Law and abolition or review of the Justice and Accountability Law. They denounced structural problems within the overburdened judiciary and alleged corruption in law enforcement. The demonstrators demanded the immediate release of all prisoners who had already been released by the court or had yet to be charged, and women who were in custody in lieu of their kin. They also called for the transfer of women detained on criminal charges to their respective provinces as well as investigations into human rights violations, specifically alleged torture, confessions obtained under duress and abuse of female detainees. The protests led to the temporary closure of crossing points on the border with Jordan and the Syrian Arab Republic (Al-Walid, Trebil and Rabia) between 9 and 18 January.

10. In an effort to defuse the crisis, the Government of Iraq on 8 January appointed a ministerial committee, headed by the Deputy Prime Minister, Hussain al-Shahristani, and including the Justice Minister, Hasan al-Shammari, and the Human Rights Minister, Mohammed al-Sudani, to address those demands of the demonstrators that did not contradict the Constitution. On 3 and 17 February, Mr. Al-Shahristani announced the release of 3,000 and 2,475 detainees, respectively. He stated on 17 February that the ministerial committee was processing 81,000 claims from political martyrs, prisoners and victims of terrorism of the previous regime and those facing "de-Baathification". According to the Deputy Prime Minister, the committee processed 2,400 of the 3,300 claims of persons whose houses were ordered to be seized following de-Baathification in order to return properties to their owners. The committee continues to meet on a regular basis to discuss the human rights issues raised by the demonstrators.

11. Parallel to the Government's efforts to respond to the protests, an inter-coalition committee headed by the leader of the National Alliance, Ibrahim al-Jaafari, met for the first time on 16 January. Composed of representatives of the National Alliance, Iraqiya and the Kurdish Alliance, the committee was to put forward recommendations for revising the contested laws and their application. In addition, a "council of wise men", comprising mainly pro-government Sunni Islamic scholars, was created on 31 December to facilitate dialogue between demonstrators and the Government.

12. Since late December, Iraqiya ministers have boycotted the sessions of the Cabinet and attended only sessions of the Council of Representatives relating to the budget. The Iraqiya ministers were placed on special leave by the Prime Minister, who requested, effective 29 January, that other ministers run the ministries on an interim basis. On 13 January, the office of Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani called upon all political parties to end sectarian rhetoric and enter into negotiations, including to consider the demands of the protestors. Iraqiya continues to boycott cabinet meetings.

13. On 15 January, one of the founding members of the Sahwa Council in Iraq and parliamentarian, Ifan al-Issawi, was killed in a suicide bombing in Fallujah. The Islamic State of Iraq claimed responsibility for the attack. On 25 January, four people were killed and several injured in Fallujah in clashes between security forces and demonstrators. On 25 February, the Governor of Diyala Province was injured in an assassination attempt. No one claimed responsibility for the attack.

14. On 19 January, a parliamentary board approved a request to summon the Prime Minister on the grounds of violating the Constitution. On 26 January, the Council of

Representatives passed a law with a majority of 170 votes to limit the President, Prime Minister and Speaker of the Council of Representatives to two terms of office. The State of Law coalition, which voted against the law, said that it would refer the law to the Federal Supreme Court for a review of its validity.

15. On 15 February, the Justice and Accountability Commission dismissed Medhat al-Mahmoud as the head of the Federal Supreme Court for his alleged Baathist connections, prompting disputes between the executive and legislative branches over their respective competencies in relation to the appointment of members of different independent bodies. On 17 February, the Prime Minister replaced the newly appointed head of the Justice and Accountability Commission, Hasan Shanshal, with another member of the Commission, Basim Badri. On 18 February, the Speaker of the Council of Representatives reappointed Mr. Shanshal. On 19 February, the Appeals Board of the Justice and Accountability Commission overturned the removal of Mr. Al-Mahmoud.

B. Regional and international developments

16. The normalization of relations between Iraq and Kuwait continued to progress. On 20 November, the Iraq Council of Ministers agreed to pay $500 million to Kuwait Airways in a compensation settlement. Following the subsequent withdrawal of Kuwaiti lawsuits against Iraqi Airways, Iraqi Airways began to operate flights to Kuwait on 27 February, for the first time in 22 years. In a similarly welcome development, the Parliament of Kuwait ratified an agreement on the navigation of the Khor Abdallah waterway, reached during the last meeting of the countries' Joint Ministerial Committee.

17. On 5 December, I visited Kuwait to meet with its leadership, including the Emir and the Prime Minister, on the normalization of Iraq-Kuwait relations. My Special Representative visited Kuwait on 5 March, where he met with Kuwaiti officials and discussed the outstanding issues between the two countries, including the Iraq-Kuwait boundary maintenance project.

18. On 6 December, I travelled to Baghdad, where I met with President Talabani, the Prime Minister, Nuri al-Maliki, and the Speaker of the Council of Representatives, Usama al-Nujaifi. I also addressed the heads of blocs in the Council of Representatives and discussed with President Barzani the general situation in the country, including Baghdad-Erbil relations. I also met the Chair of the Independent High Electoral Commission, Sarbast Mustafa. My discussions in Baghdad focused on the internal political situation, the stalemate between major political blocs, the forthcoming governorate council elections and human rights issues in Iraq; the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic; and relations between Iraq and Kuwait. I welcomed the progress made in building State institutions and urged leaders to engage in an inclusive political dialogue without any further delay to achieve necessary reforms and enact constitutionally mandated legislation. I also assured the Government of Iraq of the support of the United Nations for its fulfilment of obligations under Chapter VII of the Charter in relation to Kuwait.

19. On 10 December, Iraq nominated its technical observers to participate in the field maintenance work of the Iraq-Kuwait boundary maintenance project pursuant to Security Council resolution 833 (1993). On 17 December, the Iraqi technical observers arrived in Kuwait. On 14 January, my Deputy Special Representative for

Political Affairs formally launched the field maintenance work in the presence of representatives from both countries. Both sides committed to take the steps necessary to ensure that the work is completed by the deadline of 31 March. At the time of reporting, the work is on schedule, and the Government of Iraq has started to remove the obstacles between boundary pillars, with the notable exception of the residential constructions in the Umm-Qasr area. With regard to the implementation of Security Council resolution 899 (1994), the Government of Iraq announced on 29 November that it would update the list of those eligible for compensation. The Government has yet to respond, however, to the proposal by the United Nations to transfer the funds for that purpose without delay.

20. On 24 December, Prime Minister Al-Maliki met in Jordan with King Abdullah II. The countries concluded several bilateral agreements, including on building an oil pipeline through Jordan. The pipeline would carry a million barrels a day and provide Jordan with all its crude oil requirements.

21. The political, humanitarian and security ramifications of the ongoing civil war in the Syrian Arab Republic continue to be a source of serious concern for Iraq, which hosts thousands of refugees fleeing the conflict. The Government of Iraq continues to emphasize a Syrian-led solution to the crisis, including dialogue towards a political transition comprising all Syrian constituents.

22. During the reporting period, the Turkish armed forces carried out military operations, including aerial bombing and artillery shelling in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, against the Kurdistan Workers Party in response to its cross-border terrorist attacks.

III. Activities of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq and the United Nations country team

A. Political activities

23. My Special Representative, Martin Kobler, visited Kirkuk on 22 January and 27 February to discuss the current political crisis with governorate officials and the potential modalities for holding governorate council elections in Kirkuk. Despite continued facilitation by UNAMI and the agreement between the components on the importance of the elections in Kirkuk, negotiations between the parties are at a stalemate, and the prospect for elections in the Kirkuk Governorate remains limited. The current political crisis has also overshadowed this issue on the national political agenda.

24. On 20 and 21 November, my Special Representative visited Kuwait to meet the Prime Minister, Sheikh Jaber al-Mubarak al-Sabah, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Sheikh Sabah Khalid al-Sabah, and the Minister of Communications, Salim Alozainah, in preparation for my forthcoming visit.

25. During the reporting period, my Special Representative held regular meetings with key government officials, among them Prime Minister Al-Maliki, the Vice-President, Khudhair al-Khuza'e, Deputy Prime Ministers Saleh al-Mutlaq and Hussain al-Shahristani, and the Speaker of Parliament, Osama al-Nujaifi, in order to discuss how to defuse the ongoing political crisis. My Special Representative encouraged all Iraqi political and religious leaders to engage constructively in direct

dialogue to defuse the crisis. He reiterated to his interlocutors the importance of respecting human rights and addressing the demands of the demonstrators seriously, in accordance with the law and Constitution of Iraq. He urged the Government of Iraq to exercise the utmost restraint in dealing with the demonstrators. At the same time, he pressed the representatives of the demonstrators to keep their actions peaceful and within the bounds of the law.

26. On 12 January, my Special Representative met in Erbil with President Barzani. On 13 January, he met in Najaf with Grand Ayatollah Al-Sistani and the Governor. On 21 January, he met in Baghdad with religious leaders, including Ayatollah Sayed Hussein al-Sadr. On 22, 27 and 29 January, UNAMI representatives visited Al-Anbar, Salah ad-Din and Ninewa Provinces, respectively, where they met with the representatives of the protestors and local government. On 29 January, my Special Representative met in Mosul with local authorities and demonstrators. On 30 and 31 January, my Special Representative met tribal leaders and the President of the Awakening Council, who expressed concern about the current situation. My Special Representative reiterated the importance of the demonstrations remaining peaceful and of all parties exercising restraint and engaging in dialogue, and emphasized the readiness of the United Nations to assist. On 19 February, he visited Erbil, where he met with Nechirvan Barzani, Prime Minister of the Kurdistan Regional Government, and other leaders. On 20 and 26 February, UNAMI representatives visited Fallujah and Tirkrit and met with local authorities and demonstrators. On 24 February, my Special Representative met separately with Speaker Al-Nujaifi and the Minister of Finance, Rafi al-Issawi. On 27 February, my Special Representative met in Kirkuk with key stakeholders.

27. My Special Representative continued to use his good offices to engage all parties, including the committees headed by Deputy Prime Minister Al-Shahristani and Mr. Al-Jaafari, to assist in defusing the crisis. On 17 February, in response to the request by UNAMI for the Government of Iraq to follow up on the human rights situation, Mr. Al-Shahristani appointed a focal point within his office to work on individual human rights cases submitted to UNAMI.

28. UNAMI continued to provide advice and technical assistance to the Council of Representatives on a draft law to establish the Federation Council and engaged with parliamentarians and provincial governors on the political framework for the Federation Council, including its composition, power and procedures. A draft law to establish the Federation Council is under deliberation by the Council of Representatives, which is receiving advice and technical assistance from UNAMI.

29. In February UNAMI marked World Interfaith Harmony Week. My Special Representative led a delegation of 40 Iraqi youth to a number of holy places in Iraq and convened discussions on the aspirations of youth for the country's future.

B. Electoral assistance activities

30. Preparations for the governorate council elections on 20 April intensified under the leadership of the new Board of Commissioners of the Independent High Electoral Commission. Significant progress was made, including the finalization of a legal and regulatory framework, completion of the voter registry update, registration of entities and candidates and external relations.

31. On 13 December, the Council of Representatives voted to adopt the Sainte-Laguë formula for allocating seats in the governorate councils following negotiations among political blocs and consultations between the Legal Committee of the Council of Representatives, the Independent High Electoral Commission and UNAMI, during which the Mission provided a draft of the amendment to the Legal Committee. This formula replaces a provision in the electoral law that was ruled unconstitutional by the Federal Supreme Court.

32. Concerned that the new formula may lead to fewer women being elected in governorate councils, UNAMI proposed to the Independent High Electoral Commission, on 23 December, a number of potential measures, including a provision guaranteeing that no fewer than 25 per cent of a governorate council's seats would be awarded to women and a legal provision ensuring that there would be one woman for every two winners in an entity list.

33. On 17 January, an integrated gender task force on elections was established. Bringing together UNAMI, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the task force coordinates efforts for gender mainstreaming and women's participation as voters and candidates in elections. The task force works with the Independent High Electoral Commission gender team, headed by the only female commissioner, to promote gender awareness, including advocacy within the Board of Commissioners and the management of the Commission, the production of outreach materials and a review of the procedures and policies of the Commission. Those initiatives have led the Commission to incorporate gender-disaggregated data in reporting on the polling process. For the first time, the Commission will be able to announce the number of male and female voters.

34. During the voter registration update period of 9 December to 8 January, almost a million individuals checked their registration data in 893 voter registration centres, including 28 centres for internally displaced persons in Kirkuk and the governorates in the Kurdistan Region. More than 300,000 registration forms were issued for additions or changes of entries in the preliminary voters' lists. The voter registry was updated. With advice from UNAMI, the Independent High Electoral Commission is allocating the voters to polling places and updating the voting records for the army and police, with a view to generating the final voter lists.

35. The processes of registering and nominating political entities and coalitions took place as scheduled on 10 January. The Independent High Electoral Commission announced that 265 political entities and 50 coalitions were participating in the April elections. Nomination papers were submitted for 8,302 candidates, of whom 2,205 (26 per cent) are women. On 13 January, the Commission submitted the candidate lists for vetting by the Justice and Accountability Commission. While 446 candidates were initially excluded, 315 were reinstated following appeals. Pursuant to the justice and accountability law, 135 candidates remain excluded. Most excluded candidates are from the governorates of Baghdad, Salah ad-Din, Ninewa and Diyala. Submissions of substitute candidates are being processed. On 18 February, the Commission announced that the start of the campaign would be brought from 25 March to 1 March. Since January, UNAMI has advocated that the Commission cannot shorten the campaign period, as the law stipulates that election campaigns must start once the candidate is officially approved by the Commission.

36. In a letter dated 3 December, the Office of the Prime Minister of Iraq notified the Independent High Electoral Commission of its approval to transfer the Commission staff from contractual to permanent (civil servant) status. On 10 February, the Chief Electoral Officer of the Commission announced that roughly 4,000 staff were henceforth considered civil servants. Advocated by UNAMI since 2006, civil servant status will contribute to the professionalization of the workforce and the retention of experienced electoral staff.

37. The United Nations integrated electoral assistance team continues to provide advice and assistance to the Independent High Electoral Commission on operational and external relations activities, including through the participation of UNAMI in the meetings of the Board of Commissioners. The rehabilitation of the Commission's data-entry centre was completed, with the support of the United Nations Office for Project Services. United Nations advisers provide regular advice to the Commission's software developers on software for tabulating election results. A number of mechanisms for polling and counting, special voting, and complaint management have been finalized. United Nations military advisers take part in meetings of the high committee on electoral security. Aside from providing advice in the planning and design of public outreach campaigns, the United Nations team, through UNDP, supports the production of outreach materials to enhance the profile of the Commission in the elections.

38. In meetings with the diplomatic community in Iraq, facilitated by my Special Representative, the Board of Commissioners has underlined its goals of building confidence and enhancing the credibility of the elections. Invitation letters for election observation have been sent to international and regional organizations and diplomatic missions in Iraq through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Domestic observation is also planned. The Independent High Electoral Commission has thus far accredited 6,053 domestic observers and 8,305 political entity agents.

39. In November, a needs assessment mission was deployed to Iraq to evaluate ongoing needs and gaps in electoral assistance, given the prospect of several elections over the next two years. In the mission report, it was highlighted that electoral assistance will remain a priority for UNAMI and the integrated electoral assistance team in 2013-2014, with assistance focusing on the areas of information and communications technology, the voter registry, legal advice, gender mainstreaming, external relations and strategic planning. As the remaining technical gaps with respect to the Integrated Electoral Assistance Team are addressed, the nature and extent of United Nations electoral assistance beyond 2014 would be subject to a new request and needs assessment.

C. Human rights activities and developments

40. UNAMI continued to monitor prisons and places of detention under the responsibility of the Ministry of Justice in different parts of Iraq, including the Kurdistan Region. Conditions in detention facilities under the authority of the Ministry continue to improve, including physical conditions and rehabilitation programmes, as well as medical and psychological services. The Ministry is in the process of implementing reforms to bring prisons and detention facilities in line with international human rights standards, including the reparation and construction of premises. The remaining overcrowding issue in some prisons is also expected to be addressed.

41. UNAMI has not been granted access to detention centres under the authority of the Interior Ministry. Many detainees and prisoners interviewed by UNAMI in Ministry of Justice facilities and family members of persons held in detention centres under the Interior Ministry have alleged abuse, mistreatment and, at times, torture by authorities.

42. The justice system continues to implement the death penalty for serious crimes, particularly those relating to terrorism. On 16 December, the Presidential Council ratified 28 death sentences. All persons whose sentences were ratified were convicted under the Anti-Terrorism Law for involvement in attacks against civilians and security forces. Despite weaknesses in the administration of justice, my frequent appeals for a moratorium on the implementation of the death penalty in accordance with relevant General Assembly resolutions remain unheeded.

43. On 15 December, the Iraqi Council of Representatives ratified the Law on the High Judicial Council, which stipulates that the President of the Court of Cassation (appeals court) will simultaneously be the President of the High Judicial Council instead of the President of the Federal Supreme Court (constitutional court). Representatives of the State of Law Coalition boycotted the session, stating that they intended to challenge the new law, as it was approved without the required parliamentary quorum.

44. Violence against women, including honour-related crimes, continued to be reported. UNAMI received reports of the killing, burning and suicide of women, especially in the Kurdistan Region, where the Regional Government has made an effort to collect information and formulate policies aimed at addressing this serious issue. According to statistics from the Kurdistan Region general directorate responsible for following up on violence against women, there were 20 cases of killing and suicide in November and December, 33 cases of burning and attempts to burn and 634 complaints of verbal and other forms of harassment recorded in the Region.

45. Grave violations against children continued to be documented. The country task force on monitoring and reporting, co-chaired by UNAMI, received 50 reports of child casualties in November and December in waves of coordinated attacks, mostly through improvised explosive devices. Education and health facilities were also affected. As at the end of December, 302 children (including 13 girls) were being held in detention facilities under article 4 of the Anti-Terrorism Act (2005). A formal mechanism for collaboration on child protection and information-sharing between the country task force and the Government remains to be established.

46. Curbs on the right to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly continued. On 14 December, the Al-Baghdadiya television station was closed down upon orders of the Baghdad Operations Command, with no reason specified. On 16 December, the Baghdad Operations Command ordered the closure of another media outlet, the Al-Mahaba radio station, which disputed the claim that it had not paid its licence fee. The two orders are considered to be in clear breach of Iraqi law, which stipulates that only the Communications and Media Commission has the authority to order the closure of media outlets.

47. Minorities continued to be targeted in acts of violence, including assassination and kidnapping for ransom. On 24 December, Turkmen leaders in Kirkuk alleged that in 2012, 46 Turkmen were assassinated, 12 were kidnapped, 61 died in

explosions and 329 were injured. As part of its attempts to address this issue, UNAMI has offered a number of training sessions on the protection of the rights of minorities with representatives of civil society and Government officials, the latest of which was held on 31 January and 1 February.

48. In Baghdad, UNAMI, in cooperation with the human rights committee of the Council of Representatives and the Iraqi Alliance of Disability Organizations, organized a conference on 22 and 23 December to make recommendations to the Government of Iraq on implementing the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which Iraq had ratified. The recommendations included the establishment of an independent board to oversee the implementation of the Convention, the appointment of focal points within government departments to review policies and procedures to ensure access to services by persons with disabilities and public information campaigns to raise awareness of the rights of persons with disabilities and their contributions to Iraqi society.

49. To assist in the training of the commissioners of the Independent High Commission for Human Rights, UNAMI, in partnership with UNDP, conducted a workshop in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, from 4 to 7 December. The workshop provided participants with practical tools for implementing the Commission's protection mandate, including detention monitoring, the conduct of human rights assessments and inquiries and the investigation of individual complaints, as well as information on the role of national human rights institutions in the protection of human rights defenders and the holding of public inquiries. The Council of Representatives granted the Commission the right to use a temporary office location in the former Parliament building. The Commission has started to recruit staff, which will be essential once it commences full operations in the coming months.

Camp New Iraq and Camp Hurriya

50. On 9 February, 27 rockets were fired at Camp Hurriya, resulting in 7 dead and more than 40 injured. Jaish al-Mukhtar, a militant wing of Hizbullah in Iraq, claimed responsibility for the attack. I condemned the attack, as did my Special Representative, and urged the Government of Iraq to do its utmost to ensure the safety and security of the residents. My Special Representative requested Iraqi authorities to ensure medical care for the wounded and to promptly conduct an investigation. A United Nations team was immediately deployed to the camp to assess the situation and provide assistance. In its rapid response, the Government dispatched teams to secure the area around the camp, assisted with medical transportation of the wounded, inspected the camp area and cleared unexploded ordnance. The Prime Minister formed a committee to investigate the incident.

51. One hundred residents remain in Camp New Iraq (formerly Camp Ashraf). The residents and their leadership insist that their relocation cannot occur until the issue of movable and immovable property is resolved. While flexible on the sale of movable property, the Government of Iraq refuses to provide compensation for immovable property. In January, UNAMI facilitated the visit of the residents' legal representatives to Iraq for the resolution of the property issue. While some progress has been made, the matter remains unresolved. With the issue of the appointment of legal representation in Iraq on the property issue outstanding, the Government of Iraq continues to insist that the remaining 100 residents should relocate to Camp Hurriya immediately.

52. In the Camp Hurriya temporary transit location, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) had completed the registration of 3,112 individuals and conducted in-depth interviews of 2,024 persons as at 27 February. A total of 1,546 individuals had been determined to have international protection needs, while the cases of the other individuals interviewed were being processed. Simultaneously, UNHCR is seeking durable solutions for individuals with identified international protection needs through resettlement, consular and humanitarian channels. To date, 25 residents have been accepted for consular solutions by seven countries. Another 26 individuals have been accepted for resettlement by five countries. Discussions with other countries are in an advanced stage for the admission on humanitarian grounds of a few hundred persons. The tragic events of 9 February highlight the urgent need to find solutions outside of Iraq for all the residents in the Camp Hurriya temporary transit location as soon as possible.

53. In addition, a number of residents in Camp Hurriya informed UNAMI and UNHCR of their wish not to relocate outside of Iraq but to return to Camp New Iraq. Since December, 19 individuals, including 6 who declined solutions identified in Finland, Sweden and Norway, cited a number of reasons, including a belief that they had the right to remain in Iraq or return to Camp New Iraq, a wish to be the last resident to depart from Iraq or a request for other ill or elderly camp residents to be resettled in their place.

D. Development and humanitarian assistance

54. The conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic continues to affect Iraq, with the influx of humanitarian refugees to Iraq increasing rapidly. As at 20 February, 96,270 Syrian refugees had been registered or were awaiting registration with the Government of Iraq and UNHCR, 87,416 of whom are in the Kurdistan Region. The Humanitarian Coordinator and humanitarian country team in Iraq have stepped up their advocacy to the Government in facilitating the entry of displaced Syrian families through the Al-Qaim border crossing, which remains closed, with exceptions for medical emergencies and family reunification. The UNAMI Gender Unit liaises with UNHCR on the refugee situation, in particular on cases of conflict-related sexual violence.

55. The total number of Iraqis crossing into Iraq from the Syrian Arab Republic as at 21 February was 73,664, including returnees registered in the Syrian Arab Republic as Iraqi refugees and individuals who cross the border for private reasons on a daily basis. Between October and December, 27,120 internally displaced persons and 19,220 Iraqi refugees returned to their places of origin. This brings their total number in 2012 to 218,800 and 82,260, respectively. The Ministry of Migration and Displacement continues to distribute 4 million Iraqi dinars to all new returnee households. Construction of new low-cost housing units has begun on land allocated by the Government to internally displaced persons currently living in informal settlements. Since November, UNHCR has provided one-time cash assistance of $400 for families and $200 for individuals in all Iraqi returnee households.

56. The humanitarian country team, in collaboration with non-governmental organizations, finalized all winterization activities prior to the wet and cold winter season. UNHCR, the humanitarian country team, the Government of Iraq and the

Kurdistan Regional Government scaled up the distribution of thousands of non-food items while replacing light tents with more durable family models. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) distributed winter clothes to more than 4,300 refugee children and provided access to safe water and sanitation to 10,500 refugees. UNICEF also constructed three schools, benefiting 3,000 refugee students, rehabilitated eight schools, benefiting more than 4,500 Iraqi students, and provided recreational and psychosocial activities to nearly 1,100 refugee children. The World Food Programme (WFP) distributed food vouchers to 30,000 beneficiaries in Domiz camp. The World Health Organization (WHO) distributed 150 wheelchairs and medicine for chronic health conditions in Domiz camp. WFP also provided refugees in Al-Qaim camp with food parcels. During the reporting period, the International Organization for Migration distributed 5,621 emergency and winterization kits to 25,488 Syrian refugees.

57. In late December, UNHCR responded to the worst flooding emergency in 30 years, which affected thousands of people in Baghdad with non-food item kits, plastic sheets and cash assistance. In January, UNHCR provided assistance to 1,200 families left homeless by floods in Salah ad-Din Governorate.

58. The Chair of the United Nations Development Group and Administrator of UNDP, Helen Clark, visited Baghdad from 1 to 3 December. She raised with Iraqi counterparts the necessity of establishing a cost-sharing mechanism for joint programmes based on the country's development priorities.

59. As at 31 December, the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) had funding of $34,094,784. The process of formalizing allocations from the Government's Partnership Fund, from which Iraq has allocated $30 million to co-finance United Nations programmes, has been difficult, as no line ministry has received an allocation from the Ministry of Finance. Operational modalities for the utilization of those funds are still under discussion, with the Government preferring a parallel mechanism without transferring funds to the United Nations. This situation compounds the difficulty of mobilizing resources in Iraq, as the majority of donors are less keen to contribute funds to a country where they see the potential of self-funding development programmes. The United Nations country team is working on a proposal for a co-financing mechanism that will bring Iraq to net contributing country status.

60. On 4 December, the Kurdistan Regional Government committed to providing additional funding from its 2012 budget to UNDAF programmes. From the allocation of $14 million made to the Kurdistan Regional Government from the Partnership Fund, $12.1 million has been allocated to its share of the costs of 20 United Nations country team programmes.

61. The second phase of the public sector modernization programme, led by UNDP, started on 1 January. The programme provides for decentralization as an important element of a new administrative configuration.

62. On 18 November, the Ministry of Health, UNICEF, WHO and WFP launched the first national nutrition strategy of Iraq, which provides a vision for improving the nutritional status of the Iraqi people and includes targets for reducing the prevalence of stunted children, caused by undernutrition, from 21 per cent to 10 per cent by 2021.

63. A report by WFP entitled "Food security, living conditions and social transfers in Iraq", launched in December, found that overall food deprivation fell from 7.1 to 5.7 per cent in 2011, but that 1.9 million Iraqis still suffered from food deprivation. The findings will assist the Government in targeting the public distribution system to alleviate food insecurity for its affected population.

64. On 8 December, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, UNICEF, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the World Bank launched the country's first national education strategy, which provides a vision for improving access to quality education and promoting free and equal access to preschool, basic and secondary education for all children, especially the most deprived among them.

65. Through the collaboration of UNESCO with Iraqi universities and the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, two Avicenna e-learning centres were inaugurated, on 28 November and 3 December, at the University of Baghdad and the University of Salahaddin, respectively. In addition, UNESCO supplied a television studio to the University of Baghdad to support education in media literacy and television programming.

66. On 12 December, UNICEF, along with the Government, launched the multiple indicator cluster survey, the largest household survey conducted in Iraq to date, which provides comprehensive data on the situation of children and women in the country. It highlighted the fact that 5.3 million children are deprived of many of their fundamental rights and identified Muthanna, Missan, Ninewa and Thi-Qar as the most vulnerable governorates.

67. From 18 to 20 December, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and UNDP organized with the Governor of Erbil a national conference on informal settlements and urban governance. Participants discussed the lessons of resettlement and compensation by the Government of Iraq, finding durable solutions for internally displaced persons and practices developed in Erbil on establishing "special planning zones" as a potential basis for new legislation to address informal settlements at the national level.

68. During the reporting period, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations worked to strengthen the capacity of public agricultural institutions and the delivery of services to ensure sustainable growth in the agricultural sector at the governorate level.

69. UNDP advocacy contributed to the ratification by the Council of Representatives of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, with a law published on 14 January. With UNDP support, Iraq rolled out the first curriculum for primary and secondary schools that promotes transparency, accountability and the fight against corruption.

70. On 1 December, UN-Women sponsored the first "TEDx Women" event in Baghdad, during which a number of innovative ideas for small enterprise and social development were showcased.

71. Technical consultations on transboundary solutions to the environmental challenges of Iraq, held in Tehran on 11 and 12 November, were attended by officials from Iranian ministries and Tehran University. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the UNAMI Tehran Liaison Office supported the establishment of a secretariat within the Department of Environment of the Islamic Republic of Iran to secure funding for relevant activities in both countries.

72. Although the scientific data are incomplete, it has been recognized that Iraq is not only affected by dust storms, but it has become one of the main sources of such storms owing to the decades-long degradation of the environment. The increasing number and frequency of dust storms present economic and health risks not only for Iraq, but for the whole region. Between 2001 and 2010, 530 transboundary dust storms were detected in Iraq alone. It is estimated that there will be 300 dust storms every year in the next 10 years. At the Regional Dust Storms Conference held in Kuwait from 20 to 22 November, my Special Representative called for a collective approach to shared environmental challenges and underlined the readiness of the United Nations to provide support. On 21 February, he attended the first United Nations Environment Assembly for UNEP in Nairobi, where the Governments of Iraq, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Jordan, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates pledged their support for a regional intervention on dust storms.

73. On 6 and 7 December, UNESCO organized a workshop for the Iraq national drafting team preparing the World Heritage List nomination file for the Iraqi marshlands.

74. To assist in building the country's capacity in the area of drought management, UNESCO organized a study tour for 14 Iraqi experts from 18 to 24 November to research centres, training institutions and governmental bodies on drought monitoring and management in Kenya.

75. In December, the Ministry of Trade, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization discussed initiatives to develop trade policy in Iraq and support the country's accession to the World Trade Organization, including by strengthening skills and institutional structures.

E. Gender issues

76. On 17 and 18 December, the UNAMI Gender Unit, in cooperation with the Kurdistan Parliament, conducted a workshop on negotiation and mediation for 29 female parliamentarians. Participants formulated a six-point document recommending a minimum 30 per cent quota for women in all negotiation and mediation forums and delegations; a 30 per cent quota for women across all government structures; amendment of the Kurdistan Political Parties Law to include a 30 per cent quota for women's representation at all levels of party structures, with penalties imposed on party funding if the quota is not met; the participation of women in political party leadership during political negotiations; the establishment of a network under Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) within Parliament; and capacity-building on negotiation, advocacy and lobbying.

IV. Security and operational issues

77. The security environment in Iraq remained volatile and unpredictable throughout the reporting period, fuelled by political and sectarian tensions, with armed opposition groups and terrorist organizations selecting targets and adapting their procedure and techniques. From 16 November to 31 January, 741 Iraqi civilians across the country were killed and 2,285 wounded. In the same period,

311 members of the Iraqi security forces were killed and 532 injured. There was an increase in the number of suicide attacks and indirect fire (mortars and surface-to-surface artillery rockets attacks). While the deliberate targeting of the Iraqi security forces and individuals continues, there appears to be a recurrence of mass casualty attacks in densely populated areas, exploiting sectarian tensions.

78. The former United States Forces-Iraq Provincial Reconstruction Team compound, housing the UNAMI office in Basra, was vacated in December and handed over to the Government of Iraq. A new integrated office was established in Basra under a cost-sharing agreement between UNAMI and the United Nations country team. In addition, the provision of integrated support services at the Kuwait Joint Support Office for UNAMI and the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan was initiated in December. In line with its budget for 2013, UNAMI enhanced its air capacity with the acquisition of longer-range helicopters.

79. UNICEF and UNHCR opened an office in Basra to expand support to the most deprived and vulnerable populations, namely children, internally displaced persons and refugees in Basra, Missan, Muthanna, Najaf, Qadissiya and Thi-Qar Provinces.

V. Observations

80. I am concerned by increased tensions in Iraq, in particular since the emergence of protests in the western parts of the country. I urge the Government to continue to exercise maximum restraint in dealing with the demonstrators, who in turn should continue to express their demands peacefully. I strongly encourage the Government of Iraq to promptly investigate allegations of human rights violations in a transparent manner. In this regard, I welcome the formation of an interministerial committee and hope that it can quickly complete its review of the demands of the demonstrators in accordance with the Constitution and the rule of law. I also appeal to all parties to intensify their efforts to find solutions to long-standing political, legislative and legal issues through serious dialogue and in a spirit of compromise and flexibility. UNAMI stands ready to assist the Government and its institutions with its good offices in this regard.

81. I remain concerned about continued volatility in relations between the Government of Iraq and the Kurdistan Regional Government. I urge them to resume dialogue on solutions that are informed by principles of mutual respect and federalism based on the Constitution. Transparent and accountable sharing of power and resources is essential for ensuring further political stability, economic growth and prosperity for all. There is no alternative to peaceful coexistence in a united federal Iraq.

82. I commend the new Board of Commissioners of the Independent High Electoral Commission for its professional and timely preparations for the forthcoming governorate council elections of 20 April. I urge the relevant authorities to ensure the fair representation of women and minorities in elected bodies, including by adopting the UNAMI recommendation that a 25 per cent quota for women be enshrined in the electoral laws, applicable to all elections. Similarly, I encourage all stakeholders to ensure that the elections be held in accordance with the current timeline, in a peaceful and orderly manner and free from violence. I reiterate the continuing commitment of the United Nations to support ongoing electoral preparations and to build the Iraqi technical and institutional electoral capacity.

83. I welcome the continuing progress towards the full normalization of relations between Iraq and Kuwait. I continue to believe that a historic opportunity is at hand in this regard. I call upon the Government of Iraq to fulfil all its outstanding obligations under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations without further delay. In this connection, it is important that the Government of Iraq immediately finalize the removal of all obstacles between boundary pillars in order to enable the timely completion of the Iraq-Kuwait boundary maintenance project. I strongly encourage the Governments of Iraq and Kuwait to quickly establish a bilateral boundary maintenance mechanism to take over United Nations responsibilities under Security Council resolution 833 (1993). With regard to the compensation of Iraqi private citizens pursuant to Council resolution 899 (1994), I urge the Government of Iraq to concur with the United Nations proposal to transfer the funds for that purpose as soon as possible. I hope that the positive developments in relations between Iraq and Kuwait will enable the timely resolution of the issue of the return of Kuwaiti and third-country nationals and property and consideration by the Security Council of the exit by Iraq from its obligations under Chapter VII of the Charter.

84. The crisis in the Syrian Arab Republic continues to have a serious political, security and humanitarian impact on Iraq. I thank the Government of Iraq for its generosity and hospitality towards Syrian civilians seeking refuge and protection. I call upon Member States to extend their financial commitment for an adequate response to the crisis.

85. I continue to have serious concerns about some aspects of the administration of justice in Iraq, including reports of abuse and mistreatment of prisoners and detainees, failure to respect due process and shortcomings in meeting fair trial standards. I am also concerned by the particular difficulties faced by women who come in contact with the criminal justice system. I urge the Government of Iraq to ensure that due process is fully respected in line with the Constitution, as well as international human rights law obligations, while at the same time ensuring that alleged cases of abuse and mistreatment are thoroughly investigated and that those responsible are held to full account.

86. I welcome the ongoing expansion of programme delivery by the United Nations country team in Iraq, including the assistance provided to the most vulnerable population. I commend the support provided to Syrian refugees in the north (Domiz camp) and encourage the Government of Iraq to continue to guarantee free entry to all Syrians seeking protection. I recognize the efforts of the Government to co-finance United Nations reconstruction and development programmes and recommend moving forward on suitable operational modalities.

87. I condemn the attack on Camp Hurriya of 9 February and reiterate my call upon the Government of Iraq to promptly and fully investigate the incident and bring its perpetrators to justice. I call upon Iraq to ensure the safety and security of all residents, in line with the memorandum of understanding of 25 December 2011. I also urge Iraq to show flexibility in finding a constructive solution for the resolution of the property issue in Camp New Iraq. I urge the residents and their representatives to engage on this issue in a responsible and constructive manner without further delay. I also implore the residents to engage positively with the UNHCR resettlement process. The refusal of some residents to do so is a significant impediment to the successful completion of the process.

88. I reiterate the strong commitment of the United Nations to facilitating a peaceful and durable solution for the residents of Camp Hurriya and Camp New Iraq, I would like to express my gratitude to those Member States that have offered resettlement opportunities to residents, and I appeal for others to follow suit. The only sustainable solution to this issue depends on the willingness of Member States to offer such opportunities to the former residents of Camp New Iraq. I also appeal to Member States to provide additional financial contributions to sustain the efforts of the United Nations in Camp Hurriya.

89. I am deeply concerned about the unwarranted focus on my Special Representative by those who express support for the residents of Camp Hurriya and the remaining residents of Camp New Iraq. I would urge them to cease spreading insults and falsehoods about the Special Representative and instead help to promote a durable solution. This could include urging residents to accept offers of relocation in third countries and encouraging Member States to accept more residents from Camp Hurriya. Similarly, the significant funds evidently spent on high-profile lobbying could be more usefully utilized to improve aspects of the humanitarian conditions often cited in media and lobbying campaigns. I unequivocally support the efforts of my Special Representative in courageously and creatively doing his utmost to resolve the situation in exceptionally difficult circumstances. I urge other parties to play a constructive role in contributing to his untiring efforts.

90. UNAMI and the United Nations country team continue to be adversely affected in their ability to undertake mandated activities by the continuing absence of a status-of-mission agreement. I wish once again to appeal to the Government to take the steps necessary to ensure that the status-of-mission agreement can be brought into force without further delay.

91. Finally, I wish to thank my Special Representative, Martin Kobler, as well as all United Nations staff serving in Iraq for their hard work and dedicated commitment to support the people and the Government of Iraq.

United Nations S/2013/155

Security Council

Distr.: General
13 March 2013
English
Original: Arabic

Identical letters dated 13 March 2013 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to the report of the Secretary-General dated 27 February 2013 on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006) (S/2013/120). That report deals with a number of matters of concern to the Syrian Arab Republic that fall outside the mandate specified in the resolution, which was originally adopted in order to address the consequences of the Israeli aggression against Lebanon and monitor the continual, daily violations by Israel of the sovereignty of that country. I should therefore like to affirm the following points:

1. The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic yet again affirms its respect for Lebanese sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity and political independence. At the same time, it underlines that the pertinent Lebanese authorities must take action to prevent the infractions that are carried out by armed terrorist groups, with the support of well-known political parties in Lebanon, with a view to destabilizing Syria and undertaking terrorist operations on its territory. The Government declares its readiness to cooperate with the Lebanese authorities in preventing those activities, which violate both Syrian and Lebanese sovereignty. It would also like to draw attention to the fact that resolution 1701 (2006) calls for the report of the Secretary-General to focus on monitoring the daily Israeli violations of Lebanese sovereignty and that clear and sincere demands should therefore be made for those violations to cease, insofar as they contravene Security Council resolutions and, in particular, resolution 1701 (2006), with the implementation of which the report is concerned, rather than pursuing allegations that do not fall within the scope of the resolution.

2. The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic would like to stress the risks inherent in ignoring the activities of the armed terrorist groups that operate from Lebanese territory with the support of extremist and Salafist political factions in Lebanon, and affirm that such activities represent a threat to stability in both the fraternal countries of Syria and Lebanon. Against that background, the Syrian Government rejects the attempts made in the report to hold Syria responsible for the violent incidents that have taken place in the border areas, which have targeted civilians on both sides of the border as well as Syrian Army personnel, while ignoring documented incidents when armed terrorists have infiltrated Syrian territory with a view to attacking Syrian Army personnel. Several terrorists have been killed in the course of such incidents and their bodies handed over to the

Lebanese authorities. Syria underlines that when little importance is given to such incidents or to the official Lebanese reports on the unceasing flow into Syria of fighters and smuggled arms, and no attention is paid to the inflammatory statements that are made by certain politicians who are attached to a political movement in Lebanon that is well-known for its support for terrorism in Syria, questions are raised as to the credibility of the information in the report and the reliability of its sources. That is particularly so when the report discusses the involvement of Hizbullah personnel in the events that are taking place in Syria, ignoring the dismissal by the Syrian Government and Hizbullah leadership of those spurious allegations, which lack all credibility and are spread by Lebanese political parties that are well-known for their extremism, with the intention of misleading and distracting attention from their support for terrorism and involvement in smuggling fighters and arms into Syria.

3. The report repeats hackneyed allegations regarding the transfer of weapons to Hizbullah. It is surprising that the Secretariat should persist in raising such claims, which are propagated by Israel in order to avoid its responsibility under Security Council resolutions. The Secretariat acknowledges that it does not have the means to verify the claims, so it is unusual that they continue to be raised in reports of the Secretary-General. It is also surprising that the drafters of the report continue to give weight to the pronouncements of members of the Israeli Government claiming that "the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic intended to transfer advanced weapons systems and, potentially, non-conventional weapons to Hizbullah". Such references to alleged intentions are part of a misinformation campaign launched by Israel to justify its aggressive policy towards Syria. The Syrian Government has refuted the claims, particularly those concerning chemical weapons, in numerous letters to the Security Council and the Secretary-General. At the same time, it has gone unnoticed that Israel has acquired nuclear weapons, rejected the establishment of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East and, with support from its allies in the United States of America, thwarted international efforts to convene a conference on the establishment of such a zone. It is worth recalling that Syria supports ridding the Middle East of weapons of mass destruction, and affirmed that position in a draft resolution submitted to the Security Council in 2003.

4. Syria reiterates its position that, under international law, the delineation of the border between Syria and Lebanon is an issue of sovereignty that is governed by the nature of the bilateral relations and the common wishes of the two countries. It further reiterates that the continuation of the Israeli occupation of the Syrian Golan and the Shab'a Farms hinders the delineation of the borders in that area, and once again demands that Israel withdraw from the occupied Syrian Golan and the occupied Lebanese territories.

I should be grateful if this letter could be issued as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

United Nations S/2013/156

Security Council

Distr.: General
14 March 2013

Original: English

Australia, France, Luxembourg, Morocco, Rwanda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America: draft resolution

The Security Council,

Recalling its resolutions 1970 (2011) of 26 February 2011, 1973 (2011) of 17 March 2011, 2009 (2011) of 16 September 2011, 2016 (2011) of 27 October 2011, 2017 (2011) of 31 October 2011, 2022 (2011) of 2 December 2011, and 2040 of 12 March (2012),

Reaffirming its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and national unity of Libya,

Reaffirming its resolutions 1674 (2006) and 1894 (2009) on the protection of civilians in armed conflict, 1612 (2005), 1882 (2009), 1998 (2011), and 2068 (2012) on children and armed conflict, and 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009), 1889 (2009), and 1960 (2010) on women, peace and security,

Looking forward to a future for Libya based on national reconciliation, justice, respect for human rights and the rule of law,

Emphasizing the importance of promoting the equal and full participation of all parts of Libyan society, including women, youth and minorities, in the political process in the post-conflict phase,

Recalling its decision in resolution 1970 (2011) to refer the situation in Libya to the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, and the importance of cooperation for ensuring that those responsible for violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, including attacks targeting civilians, are held accountable,

Expressing deep concern about reports of sexual violence during the conflict in Libya against women, men and children including in prison facilities and detention centres, and the recruitment and use of children in situations of armed conflict in violation of applicable international law,

Expressing concern at the lack of judicial process for conflict-related detainees, many of whom continue to be held outside State authority, and *expressing* deep concern at reports of human rights violations and abuses in detention centres, and *taking note* of recent actions by the Ministry of Justice to address these issues,

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Reiterating that the voluntary, safe and sustainable return of refugees and internally displaced persons will be an important factor for the consolidation of peace in Libya,

Expressing concern at the illicit proliferation of all arms and related materiel of all types, in particular heavy and light weapons, small arms and man-portable surface-to-air missiles, from Libya, in the region and its negative impact on regional and international peace and security,

Reminding all Member States of the obligations contained in its resolutions 1970 (2011) and 1973 (2011), as modified in its subsequent resolutions, in particular those obligations relating to arms and related materiel of all types,

Expressing concern at an escalating series of security incidents, in particular in the east of Libya and along its southern borders,

Recalling the establishment of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) on 16 September 2011, and *reaffirming* that the United Nations should lead the coordination of the efforts of the international community in supporting, in accordance with the principles of national ownership and national responsibility, the Libyan-led transition and institution-building process aimed at establishing a peaceful, democratic, independent and united Libya,

Noting the centrality of credible elections and an inclusive constitutional drafting process to the democratic transition in Libya, and *reaffirming* UNSMIL's readiness to provide assistance to this process, upon the request of the Libyan government,

Supporting the Libyan government's intention to strengthen regional security and *welcoming*, in this regard, the agreement among Libya, Chad, Niger and Sudan to take steps to form a joint committee to address issues related to border security and the 12 January 2013 meeting in Ghadames with the Prime Ministers of Libya, Tunisia and Algeria that agreed joint measures to combat organized crime and illicit flows,

Taking note of the Libyan government's priorities for international assistance in the areas of security sector reform, rule of law and transitional justice, and *welcoming* the support of UNSMIL in this regard, including at the meetings convened by the Libyan government with international partners in London on 17 December 2012 and Paris on 12 February 2013,

Taking note of the Report of the Secretary-General on UNSMIL (S/2013/104), including the recommendation for the 12 month extension of the UNSMIL mandate,

Taking note of the final report of the Panel of Experts submitted pursuant to paragraph 10 (b) of resolution 2040 (2012) and the findings and recommendations contained therein,

Mindful of its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security under the Charter of the United Nations,

Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations,

1. *Welcomes* the positive developments in Libya, including the 7 July 2012 national elections, the establishment of the General National Congress and the peaceful transfer of authority from the National Transitional Council to the first

democratically constituted national unity government, which will improve the prospects for a democratic, peaceful and prosperous future for its people;

2. *Looks forward* to an inclusive constitutional drafting process, and *reiterates* the need for the transitional period to be underpinned by a commitment to democracy, good governance, rule of law, national reconciliation and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms of all people in Libya;

3. *Calls upon* the Libyan government to promote and protect human rights, including those of women, children and people belonging to vulnerable groups, to comply with their obligations under international law, including human rights law, and *calls for* those responsible for serious violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law, including sexual violence and violations and abuses against children, to be held accountable in accordance with international standards, and *urges* all Member States to cooperate closely with the Libyan government in their efforts to end impunity for such violations;

4. *Calls upon* the Libyan government to continue to cooperate fully with and provide any necessary assistance to the International Criminal Court and the Prosecutor as required by resolution 1970 (2011);

5. *Expresses* grave concern at continuing reports of reprisals, arbitrary detentions without access to due process, wrongful imprisonment, mistreatment, torture and extrajudicial executions in Libya, *calls upon* the Libyan government to take all steps necessary to accelerate the judicial process, transfer detainees to State authority and prevent and investigate violations and abuses of human rights, *calls for* the immediate release of all foreign nationals illegally detained in Libya, and *underscores* the Libyan government's primary responsibility for the protection of Libya's population, as well as foreign nationals, including African migrants;

6. *Encourages* Libya and neighbouring States to continue efforts to promote regional cooperation aimed at stabilization of the situation in Libya and to prevent former Libyan regime elements and violent extremist groups from using the territories of such States to plan, fund or carry out violent or other illicit acts to destabilize Libya and the States in the region, and *notes* that such cooperation would benefit stability in the Sahel region;

United Nations Mandate

7. *Decides* to extend the mandate of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) for a further period of 12 months under the leadership of a Special Representative of the Secretary-General, and *decides further* that the mandate of UNSMIL as an integrated special political mission, in full accordance with the principles of national ownership, shall be to assist the Libyan government to define national needs and priorities throughout Libya, and to match these with offers of strategic and technical advice where appropriate, and to support Libyan efforts to:

(a) Manage the process of democratic transition, including through technical advice and assistance to Libyan electoral processes and the process of preparing, drafting and adopting a new Libyan constitution, and assistance that improves institutional capacity, transparency and accountability, promotes the empowerment and political participation of all parts of Libyan society, in particular women and minorities, including in the constitutional drafting process, and supports the further development of Libyan civil society;

(b) Promote the rule of law and monitor and protect human rights, in accordance with Libya's international legal obligations, particularly those of women and people belonging to vulnerable groups, such as children, minorities and migrants, including through assisting the Libyan government to ensure the humane treatment of and due process for detainees and to reform and build transparent and accountable justice and correctional systems, supporting the development and implementation of a comprehensive transitional justice strategy, and providing assistance towards national reconciliation as well as support to ensure the continued identification, separation and reintegration of children affected by armed conflict;

(c) Restore public security, including through the provision of appropriate strategic and technical advice and assistance to the Libyan government to develop capable institutions and effective national security coordination, and implement a coherent national policy for the integration of ex-combatants into Libyan national security forces or their demobilization and reintegration into civilian life, including education and employment opportunities, and to develop defence, police and security institutions that are capable, accountable, respectful of human rights and accessible and responsive to women and vulnerable groups;

(d) Counter illicit proliferation of all arms and related materiel of all types, in particular heavy and light weapons, small arms and man-portable surface-to-air missiles, including through the development of a coordinated strategy in this regard, to clear explosive remnants of war, conduct demining programmes and conventional munitions disposal, secure and manage Libya's borders, and implement international conventions on chemical, biological and nuclear weapons and materials, in coordination with the relevant United Nations agencies, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, and international and regional partners;

(e) Coordinate international assistance and build government capacity across all relevant sectors set out in relation to paragraphs 7 (a) to (d), including by supporting the appropriate coordination mechanism within the Libyan government, advice to the Libyan government to help identify priority needs for international support, engaging international partners in the process wherever appropriate, facilitation of international assistance to the Libyan government, and establishing a clear division of labour and regular and frequent communication between all those providing assistance to Libya;

8. *Encourages* UNSMIL to continue to support efforts to promote national reconciliation, inclusive political dialogue and political processes aimed at promoting free, fair and credible elections, transitional justice and respect for human rights throughout Libya;

Arms embargo

9. *Decides* that supplies of non-lethal military equipment intended solely for humanitarian or protective use, and related technical assistance or training, shall no longer require the approval of the Committee, as previously provided for in paragraph 9 (a) of resolution 1970 (2011);

10. *Decides* that supplies of non-lethal military equipment, and the provision of any technical assistance, training or financial assistance, when intended solely for security or disarmament assistance to the Libyan government, shall no longer

require notification to, or the absence of a negative decision by, the Committee, as previously provided for in paragraph 13 (a) of resolution 2009 (2011);

11. *Urges* the Libyan government to improve further the monitoring of arms or related materiel that is supplied, sold or transferred to Libya in accordance with paragraph 9 (c) of resolution 1970 (2011) or paragraph 13 (a) of resolution 2009 (2011), including through the use of end-user certificates, and *urges* Member States and regional organizations to provide assistance to the Libyan government to strengthen the infrastructure and mechanisms currently in place to do so;

12. *Condemns* the reported continuing violations of the measures contained in resolutions 1970 (2011) and 1973 (2011), as modified in its subsequent resolutions, and *recalls* the mandate of the Committee, as defined in paragraph 24 of resolution 1970 (2011), to examine and take appropriate action on information regarding alleged violations or non-compliance with those measures;

Asset freeze

13. *Directs* the Committee, in consultation with the Libyan government, to review continuously the remaining measures imposed by resolutions 1970 (2011) and 1973 (2011), as modified by resolution 2009 (2011), with respect to the Libyan Investment Authority (LIA) and the Libyan Africa Investment Portfolio (LAIP), and decides that the Committee shall, in consultation with the Libyan government, lift the designation of these entities as soon as practical to ensure the assets are made available to and for the benefit of the people of Libya;

Panel of Experts

14. *Decides* to extend the mandate of the Panel of Experts, established by paragraph 24 of resolution 1973 (2011) and modified by resolution 2040 (2012), for a period of thirteen months, *expresses its intent* to review the mandate and take appropriate action regarding further extension no later than twelve months from the adoption of this resolution, and *decides* that the Panel shall carry out the following tasks:

(a) Assist the Committee in carrying out its mandate as specified in paragraph 24 of resolution 1970 (2011);

(b) Gather, examine and analyse information from States, relevant United Nations bodies, regional organizations and other interested parties regarding the implementation of the measures decided in resolutions 1970 (2011) and 1973 (2011) and modified in resolutions 2009 (2011) and 2040 (2012) and in this resolution, in particular incidents of non-compliance;

(c) Make recommendations on actions that the Council, the Committee, the Libyan government or other States may consider to improve implementation of the relevant measures;

(d) Provide to the Council an interim report on its work no later than 90 days after the Panel's appointment, and a final report to the Council no later than 60 days prior to the termination of its mandate with its findings and recommendations;

15. *Urges* all States, relevant United Nations bodies, including UNSMIL, and other interested parties, to cooperate fully with the Committee and the Panel, in particular by supplying any information at their disposal on the implementation of

the measures decided in resolutions 1970 (2011) and 1973 (2011), and modified in resolutions 2009 (2011) and 2040 (2012) and in this resolution, in particular incidents of non-compliance;

16. *Encourages* the Panel, while mindful of UNSMIL's responsibility for assisting the Libyan government to counter illicit proliferation of all arms and related materiel of all types, in particular heavy and light weapons, small arms and man-portable surface-to-air missiles, and to secure and manage Libya's borders, to continue and expedite its investigations regarding sanctions non-compliance, including illicit transfers of arms and related materiel to and from Libya and the assets of individuals subject to the asset freeze established in resolutions 1970 (2011) and 1973 (2011), and modified in resolutions 2009 (2011), 2040 (2012) and this resolution, and *encourages* UNSMIL and the Libyan government to support Panel investigatory work inside Libya, including by sharing information, facilitating transit and granting access to weapons storage facilities, as appropriate;

Reporting and review

17. *Expresses* its intent to review the mandate of the Committee in the event that the measures imposed in resolutions 1970 (2011) and 1973 (2011), and modified in resolutions 2009 (2011), 2040(2012) and in this resolution, should be lifted by a future decision of the Security Council;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Security Council on the implementation of this resolution, including all elements of UNSMIL's mandate, every 90 days;

19. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

United Nations A/67/791–S/2013/157

General Assembly
Security Council

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General Assembly
Sixty-seventh session
Agenda item 43
Question of Cyprus

Security Council
Sixty-eighth year

Letter dated 11 March 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I transmit herewith the recorded infringements of international air traffic regulations and violations of the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by Turkey, committed during the month of February 2013 (see annex). I have the honour to draw your attention to the systematic infringement by Turkey of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus by blatantly violating international rules in a way that seriously jeopardizes international aviation safety in the region.

I should be grateful if you would circulate this letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 43, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nicholas **Emiliou**

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Annex to the letter dated 11 March 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Air violations

Date	*Time*	*Nature of violation*
1 February 2013	1013 to 1103	Two F-16 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia flight information region (FIR) and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia air control centre (ACC).
	1048 to 1155	One Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
	1228 to 1315	Two F-16 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
	1415 to 1517	Two F-16 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
	1559 to 1652	Two F-16 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
2 February 2013	1523 to 1545	One C-650 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
4 February 2013	1029 to 1115	Two F-16 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.

Date	*Time*	*Nature of violation*
	1223 to 1311	Two F-16 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
	1420 to 1506	Two F-16 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
	1701 to 1721	Two F-16 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
5 February 2013	1018 to 1106	Two F-16 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
	1221 to 1311	Two F-16 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
	1440 to 1525	Two F-16 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
	1654 to 1724	Two F-16 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
6 February 2013	1346 to 1502	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
	1535 to 1558	One C-650 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.

Date	*Time*	*Nature of violation*
7 February 2013	1114 to 1134	One C-160 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
	1436 to 1501	One C-160 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
12 February 2013	1107 to 1128	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
	1638 to 1656	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
14 February 2013	1116 to 1146	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
	1455 to 1519	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
17 February 2013	1752 to 1812	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
	1905 to 1923	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.

Date	*Time*	*Nature of violation*
20 February 2013	1038 to 1114	One GLF-5 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
21 February 2013	1249 to 1337	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
23 February 2013	0916 to 0950	One GLF-5 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
	1017 to 1116	One Cougar Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
26 February 2013	1820 to 1842	One KC-135R Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
28 February 2013	0804 to 0825	One KC-135R Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
	0845 to 0950	One Cougar Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
	1329 to 1356	One KC-135R Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.
	1751 to 2151	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit or contacting Nicosia ACC.

United Nations A/67/794–S/2013/158

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Security Council

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General Assembly
Sixty-seventh session
Agenda item 65 (a)
Promotion and protection of the rights of children

Security Council
Sixty-eighth year

Letter dated 13 March 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Liechtenstein to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to submit to you the report of the workshop, Children and Armed Conflict: How to Deal with Persistent Perpetrators?, convened by the Permanent Mission of Liechtenstein to the United Nations, the Liechtenstein Institute on Self-Determination at Princeton University and the non-governmental organization Watchlist on 7 and 8 February 2013, at Princeton University, United States of America (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 65 (a), and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Christian **Wenaweser**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 13 March 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Liechtenstein to the United Nations, addressed to the Secretary-General

Report of the workshop, Children and Armed Conflict: How to Deal with Persistent Perpetrators?

7 and 8 February 2013, Princeton University, United States of America

I. Introduction

1. The Permanent Mission of Liechtenstein to the United Nations, the Liechtenstein Institute on Self-Determination at Princeton University and the non-governmental organization Watchlist convened a workshop on children and armed conflict on 7 and 8 February 2013 at Princeton University in Princeton, New Jersey, United States of America. The workshop brought together representatives of States members of the United Nations, including members of the Security Council, offices and departments of the Secretariat (Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Department of Political Affairs and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs), academics and non-governmental organizations to discuss strengthening Security Council action towards perpetrators of violations against children in situations of armed conflict.

2. The workshop comprised public sessions on 7 February to introduce a wider audience to the plight of children affected by armed conflict and two closed sessions on 8 February. In the first session, on 8 February, experts examined options and explored innovative and targeted approaches that the Security Council and its Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict could use to put pressure on persistent perpetrators of violations against children in situations of armed conflict. At the second session, discussions focused on opportunities for better mainstreaming the protection of children affected by armed conflict throughout the work of the Security Council. The present report summarizes the discussions in those sessions and provides recommendations for strengthening Security Council action in dealing with perpetrators of violations against children in situations of armed conflict.

II. Towards an innovative and targeted approach to address persistent perpetrators of violations of the rights of children in armed conflict

3. The first session of the workshop concentrated on the issue of so-called persistent perpetrators, namely, those who had been listed for five or more years in the annexes to the Secretary-General's annual reports on children and armed conflict.

4. It was recalled that, in its resolutions 1998 (2011) and 2068 (2012), the Security Council requested the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict to consider, with the support of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, within one year, a broad range of options for

increasing pressure on persistent perpetrators of violations and abuses committed against children in situations of armed conflict. Participants in the workshop, including members of the Working Group, expressed the intention that the discussion in the first session would assist the Working Group in identifying appropriate options for dealing with different types of perpetrators.

5. As a starting point for discussion, participants referred to options afforded by the "toolkit" adopted by the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict (see S/2006/724, annex) in 2006. It was noted that the toolkit was underutilized and that there was a lack of understanding and analysis of how tools were used and their effectiveness in different situations. Participants welcomed the recommendations to increase pressure on persistent perpetrators put forward in a report in 2012 by Ambassador Jean-Marc de la Sablière, former Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations.[1] Ambassador de la Sablière's report has not yet been published as a United Nations document. Participants noted that United Nations endorsement of the report and its findings would amount to a first significant step towards the realization of its recommendations.

6. On the basis of the toolkit and Ambassador de la Sablière's recommendations, participants discussed generally the range of options available to the Security Council and its Working Group for dealing with persistent perpetrators. Noting that there was considerable variety among perpetrators and that not all perpetrators would respond similarly to the same options, participants sought to identify appropriate tools for targeting specific perpetrators in different situations. Recommendations for possible action, summarized below, were identified in the following areas: (a) Security Council leadership and engagement in respect of children and armed conflict; (b) the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict and its toolkit usage; (c) action plan conclusion and implementation; (d) the use of targeted measures; and (e) the role of the International Criminal Court.

A. Security Council leadership and engagement in respect of children and armed conflict

7. Participants noted that, in delegating the issue of children and armed conflict to its Working Group, the political engagement of the Security Council in respect of the protection of children in armed conflict had diminished. The following suggestions were made, with a view to increasing the Council's leadership and engagement:

(a) **Mainstream children and armed conflict concerns in all relevant Security Council resolutions**. Participants noted the important role of pen holders in including concerns relating to children and armed conflict in initial draft resolutions and stressed that all Council members should contribute to mainstreaming throughout negotiation processes. The issue of mainstreaming was discussed further in session 2 (see below);

(b) **Incorporate a children and armed conflict dimension in the terms of reference and reports of Security Council field visits**. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict should brief Council

[1] See Security Council engagement on the protection of children in armed conflict: progress achieved and the way forward, June 2012, available from http://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/publications/Delasabliereport_en.pdf.

members in informal consultations on concerns relating to children and armed conflict prior to the Council's trip. The Special Representative could also send a letter to the President of the Council outlining her concerns as well as any other issues to take up with the host Government and relevant stakeholders in-country;

(c) **Raise the issue of children and armed conflict in the context of the informal expert group on the protection of civilians in armed conflict**. Briefings to the Security Council informal group on the protection of civilians by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs were noted as a positive example in raising issues concerning children and armed conflict outside of the regular Working Group framework. Participants encouraged further involvement of the Office of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict with the expert group, including by allowing staff from the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to attend the briefings;

(d) **Encourage thematic discussion of persistent perpetrators at the Security Council level**. The Council could select a thematic focus on persistent perpetrators for its annual open debate on children and armed conflict and organize regular special informal consultations on the issue;

(e) **The Chair of the Working Group should consider the possibility of regularly briefing the Council during informal consultations on activities of the Working Group, including on challenges if relevant.**

B. Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict and its toolkit

8. Participants noted that there was room for improvement in the Working Group's use of the toolkit, including both in the range of tools used and in ensuring adequate follow-up.[2] Two of the challenges to making better use of the toolkit were the need to achieve consensus in the Working Group and lack of information as to the effectiveness of the different tools. The following suggestions were made:

(a) All outgoing letters, requests or démarches by the Working Group could include requests for feedback, in writing, from the parties concerned;

(b) The Working Group should continue the practice of field trips in order to enhance interactions between New York and the field. Member States should ensure that the necessary resources are included in their budget calculations;

(c) The Working Group could make better use of press conferences to highlight specific issues and to raise awareness about violations against children in armed conflict and obligations of parties to conflicts with respect to children under international humanitarian and human rights law. In the absence of consensus on a press statement, the Chair could read out public statements on each adopted conclusion to the press, thus raising its profile;

(d) The Chair could also make a statement in his or her national capacity;

(e) The Working Group should dedicate at least one session a year to the issue of persistent perpetrators;

[2] For more information on the Security Council Working Group and its working methods, see "Working methods 2006-2012: Strengthening the impact of the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict" (Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict, January 2013).

(f) The Working Group could continue to encourage visits by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict to situations of concern to present recently adopted conclusions to relevant stakeholders and to ensure concrete and timely follow-up activities.

C. Action plan conclusion and implementation

9. Participants underlined the need to ensure consistent and coordinated action by all actors in encouraging the conclusion and implementation of action plans to halt violations and in taking other actions against perpetrators who do not conclude or implement action plans. The following suggestions were made:

(a) The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict should continue to engage with parties to conflict on action plans and their implementation, including with persistent perpetrators, where possible, and with countries to push for conclusion or implementation of action plans;

(b) The Working Group could request specific follow-up reports of the Secretary-General or briefings by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict on specific perpetrators or on challenges in action plan implementation;

(c) The Resident Coordinator or Special Representative of the Secretary-General for a specific country could be invited to brief the Security Council or its Working Group, in person or via video link, on progress made in terms of persistent perpetrators active in the country;

(d) Close cooperation should be encouraged between United Nations country task forces on monitoring and reporting and other entities engaged in ending violations against children such as the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization or the World Health Organization, with a view to including them in the task forces;

(e) The United Nations should ensure adequate support to action plan implementation through appropriately staffed country teams, strengthened peacekeeping missions and enhanced engagement by resident coordinators;

(f) Bilateral diplomacy at the country level by the Member States concerned should target action plan conclusion and implementation. The establishment of a "group of friends" in the Democratic Republic of the Congo was noted as a positive example that could be replicated in other situations. Conditionality policies on bilateral aid were highlighted as an influential tool for accelerating action plan conclusion or implementation;

(g) External actors, including Member States, engaged in supporting peace negotiations or having other contacts to perpetrators could be mobilized to support action plan conclusion and implementation;

(h) Members of the Council shall ensure that concerned Governments facilitate access to allow for the conclusion of action plans. Where Governments continue to refuse access, alternative measures should be explored with the aim of sustainably ending violations.

D. Use of targeted measures

10. Participants noted that targeted sanctions could be an effective tool to increase pressure on persistent perpetrators. It was recalled that, in the discussions leading to the adoption of Security Council resolution 1612 (2005), the creation of a thematic sanctions committee was initially proposed but did not rally consensus. The creation of the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict was retained as a compromise. While participants agreed that a thematic sanctions regime would still be very difficult to achieve politically, the notion that it should remain a goal to work towards was also supported. In addition, participants noted that much better use could be made of existing sanctions committees. Specific recommendations regarding the use of targeted measures included:

(a) The Council should include grave violations against children as designation criteria in all current and future relevant sanctions committees;

(b) The Special Representative of the Secretary-General should continue to regularly share information on grave violations against children with relevant sanctions committees;

(c) In this regard, the Secretary-General should ensure that the monitoring and reporting mechanism is geared towards providing all necessary elements for Member States to consider the designation of individuals whose names are brought before the sanctions committees by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General;

(d) The Working Group should also share information regarding child rights violations with relevant sanctions committees, for example, by forwarding country-specific conclusions to the relevant sanctions committee;

(e) All Council members should consider submitting names of individuals or groups for sanctions and/or respond to proposed designations by other members;

(f) Sanctions committees should consider updating the public narratives attached to designated individuals or groups to include grave violations against children, where relevant to the Committee's mandate.

E. Role of the International Criminal Court

11. It was noted that, in situations where violations against children had ceased, affected communities continued to feel the importance of holding perpetrators accountable. In this context, national courts have a primary responsibility. The United Nations and donors should assist in strengthening national judicial capacities to ensure accountability and support the development of child protection legislation that includes the criminalization of grave violations against children. The Working Group was urged to support ensuring accountability through national courts and to encourage strengthening of national judicial capacities. However, in contexts where national courts still lack the technical capacities or where the political situation does not allow these courts to perform their functions adequately, the International Criminal Court has a crucial role to play. In this regard, it was also noted that the International Criminal Court has limited capacities but that positive complementarity and synergies between the Court and the Working Group should be explored. When the Security Council is referring situations to the International

Criminal Court, it should not preclude United Nations financing of resulting investigations and prosecutions.

12. Participants noted Ambassador de la Sablière's recommendations for further cooperation between the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict and the International Criminal Court. The Court already has jurisdiction in 124 countries, including some where the rights of children are violated. While Security Council referrals of situations to the Court had taken place on two occasions only, the mere threat of prosecution was seen as a potentially valuable tool for putting pressure on persistent perpetrators. It was noted that there was wide scope for cooperation between the Working Group and the Court. It was suggested that the Working Group could take the following actions to make better use of the International Criminal Court in addressing perpetrators of violations against children:

(a) Note that violations against children constitute war crimes or crimes against humanity within the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court;

(b) Invite States parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court to refer a situation to the Court or invite the International Criminal Court Prosecutor to consider examining situations of grave violations against children in situations of armed conflict;

(c) Invite the Prosecutor or Deputy Prosecutor to brief the Working Group;

(d) Encourage the continued exchange of information between the Prosecutor and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict;

(e) Transmit conclusions of the Working Group to the International Criminal Court Prosecutor.

III. Child protection language in United Nations-mandated missions: review and scope for improvement

13. The second session of the workshop examined how children and armed conflict concerns can be better mainstreamed in the Security Council's country-specific work. The need for better mainstreaming had been highlighted in the morning session as well as during the Security Council's previous open debate on children and armed conflict. It was pointed out that resolutions authorizing or renewing mission mandates are prime targets for mainstreaming for two reasons. First, it is important to have missions properly empowered to address child protection concerns. Second, mission mandate resolutions frequently serve as the primary point of entry for the Council in addressing country situations.

14. Participants drew attention to the fact that children and armed conflict experts in Security Council missions lack the time needed to follow each country situation in significant detail. Several participants welcomed the new monthly updates on children and armed conflict from Watchlist (see http://watchlist.org/advocacy/monthly-updates) for providing handy alerts on forthcoming issues combined with useful recommendations for action by the Security Council or Member States. The importance of pen holders receiving such recommendations as early as possible in order to incorporate them in the zero drafts of resolutions was also emphasized. It was noted that the involvement of Security Council coordinators could help to

mainstream children and armed conflict by facilitating a dialogue between country-specific and thematic experts within missions.

15. Watchlist introduced a draft checklist for developing children- and armed conflict-friendly Security Council resolutions (see enclosure). The draft checklist was based on Council resolutions relating to children and armed conflict (including resolutions 1612 (2005), 1882 (2009) and 1998 (2011)) and included ongoing revisions to the checklist contained in the children and armed conflict smartphone application developed by Watchlist and Liechtenstein. On the basis of this checklist, participants examined Council resolutions mandating the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) and the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), both of which would be due for renewal in March 2013.

16. Regarding UNAMA, participants highlighted the need for the mission to prioritize support to action plan implementation. They noted that the elimination of the child protection section and child protection advisers in the mission hindered the timely implementation of the action plan signed by the Government. In that regard, they reiterated the importance of ensuring a stand-alone child protection capacity within the mandate structure. They also highlighted the need to take into greater account concerns of children in relation to ongoing and future peace process efforts. Participants supported the continued inclusion, called for in resolutions 1612 (2005), 1882 (2009) and 1998 (2011) of children and armed conflict as a specific aspect of the Secretary-General's mission reports, as this also reinforces the call for enhanced mainstreaming of the issue within the Permanent Missions in New York.

17. Regarding AMISOM, participants noted the ongoing discussions of the future United Nations presence in Somalia and its relationship to AMISOM. Participants recognized that strong child protection capacity within the new United Nations presence in Somalia is critical for the successful implementation of the two action plans signed by the Government of Somalia and for ensuring effective monitoring and reporting of grave violations by armed forces and groups in Somalia. Participants also recognized that AMISOM should be cognizant of child protection concerns during its operations. The participants recommended the inclusion of a child protection adviser within AMISOM to mainstream child protection concerns in its operations.

IV. Recommendations

18. Based on the discussions in the two sessions of the workshop, the following key recommendations were identified by the workshop organizers for taking action against persistent perpetrators of violations against children in situations of armed conflict and for better mainstreaming concerns relating to children and armed conflict:

A. Recommendations to the Security Council

(a) Ensure an adequate child protection mandate and request timely and sufficient child protection capacity in all relevant missions authorized by the Security Council, including peacekeeping and special political missions, with a specific focus on monitoring and reporting of violations and support to action plan conclusion and implementation;

(b) Incorporate a children and armed conflict dimension in the terms of reference and reports of all Security Council field visits;

(c) Include violations against children as designation criteria in all relevant sanctions committees and consider options for extending the sanctions regimes to other situations of armed conflict involving violations against children;

(d) Subject individuals responsible for violations to sanctions and include references to violations against children in the review of narrative summaries issued by sanctions committees;

(e) Invite the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict to regularly brief all relevant sanctions committees.

B. Recommendations to the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict

(a) Make better use of field trips, press conferences and press statements by the Chair of the Working Group, to draw attention to violations against children and to the work of the Working Group;

(b) Request written feedback from all parties concerned on steps taken to implement recommendations contained in Working Group conclusions;

(c) In its consideration of options to increase pressure on persistent perpetrators, review the use and effectiveness of its toolkit, with a specific focus on which tools have proved or could prove most effective in inducing compliance by different types of perpetrators;

(d) Invite briefings, in person or via video link, from the relevant Resident Coordinator or Special Representative of the Secretary-General for a given country on the situation in relation to perpetrators, including efforts made and challenges encountered in action plan implementation and conclusion;

(e) Transmit conclusions to the chairs of relevant sanctions committees and to the International Criminal Court Prosecutor.

C. Recommendations to Member States

(a) Mainstream children and armed conflict within foreign ministries and related Government agencies, encouraging in particular the use of bilateral diplomacy and conditionality in development or military assistance to spur action plan conclusion and implementation;

(b) Establish a "group of friends" at the country level to target action plan conclusion and implementation through bilateral diplomacy;

(c) Support efforts to strengthen national accountability mechanisms, including the development of legislation criminalizing violations against children and building investigative and prosecutorial capacities, as well as disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes.

D. Recommendations to the Secretary-General

(a) Include children and armed conflict as a specific aspect of all country reports as requested in Security Council resolutions 1460 (2003), 1612 (2005), 1882 (2009) and 1998 (2011);

(b) Include a section on the impact of the Working Group's conclusions and recommendations in each country-specific report on the situation of children and armed conflict;

(c) Encourage all relevant Resident Coordinators and Special Representatives to prioritize the monitoring and reporting of violations against children and the conclusion and implementation of action plans;

(d) Ensure timely deployment of an adequate number of child protection advisers in all relevant United Nations peacekeeping, peacebuilding and political missions to support the monitoring and reporting of violations and action plan conclusion and implementation.

Enclosure

Checklist for drafting children- and armed conflict-friendly Security Council resolutions

(a) Reference all relevant children and armed conflict resolutions, reports and conclusions;

(b) Condemn and call for an end to all violations against children and for compliance with international humanitarian law and human rights law;

(c) Demand accountability for perpetrators;

(d) Encourage the conclusion and implementation of action plans to halt violations;

(e) Use sanctions to increase pressure on perpetrators of violations against children;

(f) Include specific provisions on the protection of children and the deployment of child protection advisers in all mission mandates;

(g) Call for compliance with international humanitarian law and human rights law by peacekeeping forces;

(h) Encourage support to disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, reintegration and resettlement for children associated with armed forces and armed groups;

(i) Include child protection concerns in peace processes;

(j) Request specific reporting by the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in all country reports.

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Letter dated 13 March 2013 from the Chair of the Informal Working Group on International Tribunals addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the report of the Informal Working Group on International Tribunals containing an account of the Group's activities from 1 January to 31 December 2012 (see annex).

I would appreciate it if the present letter and its annex were brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council and issued as a document of the Council.

(*Signed*) Gert **Rosenthal**
Chairman
Informal Working Group on International Tribunals

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Annex

Report of the Informal Working Group on International Tribunals for 2012

I. Introduction

1. This report is to inform the Security Council about the work of the Informal Working Group on International Tribunals during the period from 1 January to 31 December 2012.

II. Organizational matters

2. The Working Group was established on an informal basis in 2000 to consider matters relating to the United Nations and United Nations-assisted tribunals, particularly the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. The Working Group consists of the legal advisers of the missions of the members of the Security Council and is assisted by the Office of Legal Affairs and the Security Council Affairs Division of the Department of Political Affairs.

3. Until 2007, its chairmanship rotated with the monthly rotation of the presidency of the Council and it met only on an ad hoc basis. At the end of 2007, given the intensive work relating to residual issues and the completion strategies of the Tribunals pursuant to resolutions 1503 (2003) and 1534 (2004), the Working Group decided to appoint a single Chair and started meeting on a regular basis. In 2008 the Chairmanship was held by Belgium. In 2009 and 2010 Austria was the Chair, followed by Portugal in 2011. In 2012 Guatemala had the honour of chairing the Working Group.

4. During the reporting period the Working Group continued to meet regularly and held seven meetings, including with the Presidents and Prosecutors of the two Tribunals when in New York for their presentations to the Security Council. The members of the Working Group also had informal exchanges of views on and negotiations of four Security Council resolutions concerning the Tribunals adopted in 2012.

5. In November 2012 the Working Group also discussed matters relating to the Special Court for Sierra Leone and the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone.

III. Security Council briefings

6. Following previous practice, the Permanent Representative of Guatemala, in his capacity as Chair, regularly briefed the Security Council on the progress of the Working Group as part of his statements at the biannual public meetings of the Security Council on the completion strategies of the two Tribunals, on 7 June (6782nd meeting) and 5 December 2012 (6880th meeting).

7. On 6 June the Working Group held an exchange of views with the Presidents and the Prosecutors of the two Tribunals on the work of the Tribunals and their completion strategies (see S/2012/349 and S/2012/354) in preparation for the

Tribunals' periodic briefing to the Security Council on 7 June. The Working Group started by congratulating President Theodor Meron and Prosecutor Hassan B. Jallow on their double-hatted appointments to the Mechanism starting from 1 March although it began operating officially on 1 July 2012 (International Tribunal for Rwanda division). The Working Group also congratulated Judge Vagn Joensen on becoming the President of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda starting from 2 March 2012. The Working Group received an update both on progress towards completion of cases and on transition to the Residual Mechanism. The Prosecutor, Serge Brammertz, updated the Working Group on the three major trials (Karadžić, Mladić and Hadžić) and projections for the timelines. An update was received from Prosecutor Jallow on the nine remaining fugitives from the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda.

8. On 4 December, in preparation for the periodic briefing to the Security Council on 5 December, the Working Group held another exchange of views with the Presidents and the Prosecutors of the two Tribunals on the work of the Tribunals and their activities (see S/2012/836 and S/2012/847). The exchange also covered the work and activities of the Arusha branch of the Residual Mechanism (see S/2012/849), which had started operating on 1 July 2012. Following the exchange of views the experts negotiated draft resolutions on the extension of the terms of office of judges of the two Tribunals based on letters from the President of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (see S/2012/845) and the President of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (see S/2012/893).

IV. The preparation of the Working Group for the commencement of the functioning of the Residual Mechanism

9. By resolution 1966 (2010), the Security Council, acting under Chapter VII of the Charter, decided to establish the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals with two branches, one for each of the two Tribunals, which should commence functioning on 1 July 2012 and 1 July 2013, respectively. The Tribunals' archives will be co-located with the respective branches of the Mechanism. The Council also requested the Tribunals to take all possible measures to expeditiously complete all their remaining work no later than 31 December 2014, to prepare their closure and to ensure a smooth transition to the Mechanism. It further decided that the Mechanism shall continue the jurisdiction, rights and obligations and essential functions of the Tribunals, as well as all the contracts and international agreements concluded by the United Nations in relation to them. The Mechanism will operate for an initial period of four years, will be reviewed by the Council before the end of that initial period and every two years thereafter, and will continue to operate for subsequent periods of two years following each review, unless the Council decides otherwise.

10. The preparation for the commencement of the functioning of the Mechanism started towards the end of 2011. The General Assembly elected the 25 judges for the Mechanism on 16 and 20 December 2011 and adopted the budget for the biennium 2012-2013 for the Tribunals and the Mechanism on 24 December 2011. On 10 January 2012, the Secretary-General appointed Mr. John Hocking as Registrar of the Mechanism.

11. On 20 January 2012 the Working Group held a meeting at which it was informed about progress towards the commencement of the functioning of the Arusha branch of the Mechanism. In addition, the Working Group considered the appointments of the senior officials of the Mechanism, namely the President and the Prosecutor. The President is appointed from among the judges of the Mechanism by the Secretary-General after consultations with the President of the Security Council and the judges. The Prosecutor is appointed by the Security Council on the nomination of the Secretary-General.

12. On 30 March the Working Group met to consider the letter dated 20 January 2012 from the Presidents of the two Tribunals addressing the comments made by some delegations on the Rules of Procedure and Evidence of the Mechanism. To that effect a second round of inputs was submitted to the President and judges of the Mechanism. The Rules of Procedure and Evidence were adopted by the judges in advance of the start of the operations of the Arusha branch of the Mechanism on 1 July 2012.

13. On 30 April the Working Group met to consider a request by the President of the Mechanism and the President of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda that the possible appeals in three cases before that Tribunal should be heard by the Appeals Chamber of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and not the Appeals Chamber of the Mechanism. Additional information to consider a course of action was requested by the Working Group. In addition the Working Group was briefed by the Office of Legal Affairs on the status of the draft Secretary-General's bulletin on information security and the access regime for the archives of the Tribunals and the Mechanism.

14. The Working Group also met to consider a letter dated 23 May 2012 (see S/2012/392) concerning the request for extension of the term of office of judges of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. Following the discussions in the Working Group, the Security Council, by resolution 2054 (2012), extended the terms of office of three trial judges until 31 December 2012 or the completion of the Ngirabatware case, whichever was sooner. By the same resolution the term of office of Judge Vagn Joensen (Denmark) was extended until 31 December 2014 so that he may continue to perform the functions required of him as trial judge and President of the Tribunal, to complete the work of the Tribunal. The Security Council undertook to review the latter extension in June 2013.

15. The Secretary-General's bulletin on International Criminal Tribunals: information sensitivity, classification, handling and access (ST/SGB/2012/3) was issued on 20 July 2012. The Secretary-General's bulletin aims at ensuring the classification, secure handling and provision of authorized access to the records and information entrusted to or originating from the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and the Mechanism.

16. On 19 October the Security Council received a letter (see S/2012/779) through the Secretary-General from the East African Community concerning the hosting in Rwanda of the archives of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. After consideration of the letter the Working Group decided not to discuss this matter since the location of the branches of the Residual Mechanism and the archives had already been fully considered by the Working Group when negotiating resolution 1966 (2010). At that moment the discussions were based on the Secretary-General's

report on the administrative and budgetary aspects of the options for possible locations for the archives of the Tribunals and the seat of the Residual Mechanism(s) (S/2009/258) and two subsequent informal reports of the Office of Legal Affairs to the Working Group on potential locations. The views of the affected countries and potential host countries were taken into account fully during the negotiations.

V. Security Council decisions relating to the Residual Mechanism

17. On 29 February the Secretary-General decided to appoint Judge Theodor Meron (United States of America) as President of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals, for a term of four years effective 1 March 2012. The selection and appointment process was in accordance with article 11, paragraph 1, of the statute of the Mechanism contained in annex 1 to resolution 1966 (2010). The decision was made after consulting the President of the Security Council and the judges of the Mechanism. Judge Meron continues to serve as President of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia in accordance with article 7 of annex 2 to resolution 1966 (2010), which permits double-hatting of senior officials and staff of the Mechanism.

18. The Security Council, on the nomination of the Secretary-General, appointed Mr. Hassan B. Jallow (Gambia) as Prosecutor of the Mechanism by resolution 2038 (2012) of 29 February 2012. The nomination process was in accordance with article 14 of the statute of the Mechanism contained in annex 1 to resolution 1966 (2010). The appointment, effective 1 March 2012, is for a term of four years. Mr. Jallow continues to serve simultaneously as Prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda in accordance with article 7 of annex 2 to resolution 1966 (2010).

19. On 5 July the Security Council welcomed the start of work at the Arusha branch of the Mechanism, emphasizing its importance in ensuring that there is no impunity for those responsible for serious crimes committed in Rwanda and in the former Yugoslavia in the 1990s. In a press statement issued on the same day, the Council members stressed that the Mechanism's establishment was essential to ensure that the closure of the Tribunals did not leave the door open to impunity for the remaining fugitives and for those whose trials or appeals have not been completed.

20. By resolution 2054 (2012) of 29 June 2012, the Security Council requested the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda to report on the projected schedule for transferring its remaining functions to the Mechanism. Further, the Council called on relevant United Nations units to intensify cooperation so as to find a flexible approach in addressing the staffing concerns expressed by the President and Prosecutor of the Tribunal at their briefing on 7 June 2012. At the same time, the Council called upon the Tribunal to focus on its core functions, and urged all States to intensify their cooperation in apprehending remaining fugitives. It also called on States in a position to do so to help the Tribunal to relocate acquitted persons as well as those who had completed their sentences.

21. By resolution 2080 (2012) of 12 December 2012, the Council requested updates on the transition of the functions of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda to the Mechanism, with a view to the completion of the Tribunal's work by the end of 2014. It urged all States to provide all needed assistance in that regard, particularly in relation to the arrest of remaining fugitives.

22. By the same resolution, the Council recognized concerns expressed that the current trial and appeal schedules would extend beyond the closure date, 31 December 2014, and requested a comprehensive plan on the Tribunal's completion strategy, closure and transition to the Mechanism, as well as updated schedules for individual cases. It also underlined that States should cooperate fully with the Tribunal, including by providing information to it and to the Mechanism.

VI. Mandates of judges of the Tribunals

23. In order to facilitate the completion strategies of the two Tribunals, the Working Group considered various requests by the Presidents of the Tribunals, including the extension of the judges' terms of office. Following negotiations and agreement reached among its members, the Working Group made recommendations to the Security Council for the adoption of appropriate resolutions. As a result, the Security Council adopted resolutions 2054 (2012), 2080 (2012) and 2081 (2012).

24. By resolution 2054 (2012) of 29 June 2012, the Security Council authorized Judge William H. Sekule (United Republic of Tanzania), Judge Solomy Balungi Bossa (Uganda) and Judge Mparany Mamy Richard Rajohnson (Madagascar) of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda to serve beyond the expiry of their terms of office in order to complete their cases. The Council also decided to extend until 31 December 2014 the term of office of the President of the Tribunal, Judge Vagn Joensen (Denmark). This decision will be reviewed in June 2013.

25. By resolution 2080 (2012) of 12 December 2012 the Security Council decided to extend the term of office of five judges of the Appeals Chamber of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda until 31 December 2014, or completion of the cases to which they have been assigned, if sooner. The judges are: Mehmet Güney (Turkey), Khalida Rachid Khan (Pakistan), Arlette Ramaroson (Madagascar), Bakhtiyar Tuzmukhamedov (Russian Federation) and Andrésia Vaz (Senegal).

26. By resolution 2081 (2012) of 17 December 2012 the Security Council, by 14 votes to none, with 1 abstention, extended the terms of Appeals Chamber Judges Carmel Agius (Malta), Liu Daqun (China), Theodor Meron (United States of America), Fausto Pocar (Italy) and Patrick Robinson (Jamaica) until 31 December 2013. It also extended the terms of office of permanent Trial Chambers Judges Jean-Claude Antonetti (France), Guy Delvoie (Belgium), Burton Hall (Bahamas), Christoph Flugge (Germany), O-Gon Kwon (Republic of Korea), Bakone Justice Moloto (South Africa), Howard Morrison (United Kingdom) and Alphons Orie (Netherlands) until 31 December 2013.

27. The Council likewise extended the terms of ad litem Trial Chamber Judges Elizabeth Gwaunza (Zimbabwe), Michèle Picard (France), Árpád Prandler (Hungary) and Stefan Trechsel (Switzerland) until 1 June 2013, and those of Melville Baird (Trinidad and Tobago), Frederik Harhoff (Denmark), Flavia Lattanzi (Italy), and Antoine Kesia-Mbe Mindua (Democratic Republic of the Congo) until 31 December 2013.

VII. Conclusion

28. In view of Guatemala's unwavering commitment to the rule of law, we were very pleased to chair the Working Group in 2012 and to facilitate agreements for the adoption of resolutions 2038 (2012), 2054 (2012), 2080 (2012) and 2081 (2012).

29. The Working Group will have to continue to perform important tasks, such as supporting the efforts of the two Tribunals to implement their completion strategies, assisting the setting up and commencement of functioning of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia branch of the Mechanism and ensuring a smooth transition from the Tribunals to the Mechanism. The resolution of challenges such as staff retention is essential for the timely completion of the work of the Tribunals. Cooperation with both Tribunals should be intensified, in particular for the arrest and surrender of the remaining fugitives. Increased efforts are also required towards the relocation of acquitted persons and convicted persons who have completed serving their sentences.

30. In order to keep the momentum that has been generated, it would seem advisable that the Working Group continue holding regular meetings and briefings, maintaining a regular dialogue with the Tribunals and close contacts with the affected countries and host countries of the Tribunals and the Mechanism, as well as continuing the close cooperation with the Office of Legal Affairs. The Chair and the Working Group have greatly benefited from the support and input provided by the Office of Legal Affairs and will continue to depend on their expertise in the future.

31. In conclusion, we would like to thank all members of the Working Group for their important contributions. Our appreciation also goes to the previous Chair of the Working Group, Portugal, for its guidance and support to our Chairmanship. Our sincere thanks also go to the Secretariat, the Office of Legal Affairs and the Security Council Affairs Division, for the invaluable support in 2012.

United Nations A/ES-10/585–S/2013/160

General Assembly
Security Council

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General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-eighth year

Identical letters dated 14 March 2013 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

While all efforts are being exerted, at the international and regional levels and at the national level in Palestine, to foster an environment conducive to the opening of a serious political horizon that will allow for accelerated pursuit and achievement of a peaceful, just solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Israel, the occupying Power, continues to pursue illegal policies that are totally contradictory to these efforts and undermining the extremely fragile situation on the ground in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem.

More Palestinian civilians have regrettably lost their lives as a result of the brutality of the Israeli occupying forces, including the Israeli settlers, who are constantly committing violations and grave breaches of international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, against the Palestinian people. On 12 March, a 25-year-old Palestinian, Mahmoud Adel Faris Al-Teiti, was shot in the head and killed by the occupying forces during a military raid on Al-Fawwar refugee camp near Al-Khalil. This cold-blooded killing sparked further outrage and demonstrations at the brutality of the occupying Power, which continues to attack unarmed civilians with lethal weaponry, in total disregard for human life. Israel again responded with excessive force against the demonstrations, including with tear gas and steel-coated rubber bullets.

This killing was preceded by the killing of a 28-year-old Palestinian man, Zeid Ali Rayyan, by an Israeli settler. Mr. Rayyan tragically died on 12 March of injuries sustained when he was run over by the settler near the illegal settlement of "Barqan", west of Salfit. Also, another young Palestinian 22-year-old Muhammad Asfour, died on 7 March of injuries sustained, including a bullet to the head, on 23 February when he was shot by the occupying forces during the suppression of a civilian protest in the village of Abboud. His funeral, on 8 March, witnessed more force by the Israeli army, which clashed with civilians in the funeral procession, causing several injuries. Also, on 7 March, the occupying forces fired tear gas and

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stun grenades injuring journalists covering a protest demanding the release of hunger-striking prisoners, which was taking place outside the "Ofer" prison near Ramallah.

In this connection, I wish to draw your attention to the continuing grave plight of Palestinian prisoners on hunger strike in protest of their unlawful detention by Israel, the occupying Power, without charge. Mr. Samer Issawi is in critical health and is declining rapidly as he has continued his more than 220-day strike in protest of his administrative detention and has begun to refuse even water. We call for international attention to his plight, one that underscores the plight of Palestinian prisoners and detainees in Israeli jails whose rights are being so egregiously violated by the occupying Power, and call for efforts to save his life.

Moreover, I regret to inform you that Israel continues with its arrest campaign throughout Palestine, leading to the detention and imprisonment of many more Palestinian civilians, including children. Today, the Israeli occupying forces carried out numerous raids throughout the West Bank and arrested more than 30 Palestinians. Last week, overnight Israeli raids resulted in the arrest of 14 Palestinians on 6 March, including youths and a journalist, and the arrest of 10 Palestinians on 11 March, in addition to the daily arrest and detention of other civilians.

I wish to draw attention in this regard to the plight of the more than 200 Palestinian children being held captive in Israeli jails. A United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) report released on 6 March 2013 ("Children in Israeli Military Detention: Observations and Recommendations") highlighted the pattern of institutionalized abuse and ill-treatment, including torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment and punishment, to which Palestinian children are subjected to during their arrest, transfer, interrogation, sentencing and detention by the occupying Power. This includes blindfolding, abduction from their homes in the middle of the night, solitary confinement, threats of death, physical violence and sexual assault against themselves or a family member, no family members or lawyers present during interrogation, removal from the Occupied Palestinian Territory to prisons inside Israel, and military trials, in violation of the relevant provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention and human rights law. The report also underscores that Israel's juvenile military court, established for trial and prosecution of Palestinian children, is the first and only juvenile military court in operation in the world.

UNICEF has rightly called on Israel to, inter alia, treat Palestinian children in its custody in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other international legal standards, and stressed throughout the report that the arrest, detention and imprisonment of a child should be used only as a measure of last resort and for the shortest period of time, not in the systematic, gross manner used by Israel against Palestinian children, and that the prohibition against torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment is universal and absolute.

We underscore this prohibition and stress that the short- and long-term psychological and social impacts of these illegal Israeli practices on Palestinian children are vast and gravely affect their families, their reintegration into society, their healthy development and their education, among other things. We reiterate our calls for the release of all Palestinian children in Israeli captivity in addition to our

ongoing calls for the release of all Palestinian prisoners and detainees and respect for their human rights. We further call on the international community, including the Security Council, the General Assembly and all other relevant United Nations organs and specialized agencies, to uphold their responsibilities in this regard in accordance with international law and United Nations resolutions and to act to bring an end to all such Israeli violations and crimes against the Palestinian people.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 457 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 25 February 2013 (A/ES-10/584-S/2013/128), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations

United Nations S/2013/161

Security Council

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Letter dated 13 March 2013 from the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism addressed to the President of the Security Council

Attached hereto is the work programme for the Committee established pursuant to paragraph 6 of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) and its Executive Directorate for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2013 (see annex).

The activities of the Committee will proceed pursuant to the provisions of Security Council resolutions 1373 (2001), 1535 (2004), 1566 (2004), 1624 (2005), 1805 (2008) and 1963 (2010).

The Committee will continue to work with Member States on the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001), guided by the principles of cooperation, transparency, even-handedness and consistency in approach. The Committee will remain focused on monitoring and promoting the implementation by Member States of resolution 1373 (2001) and on taking practical measures to enhance the counter-terrorism capacity of States, including measures aimed at facilitating technical assistance. The Committee will continue to pay close attention to the implementation of Security Council resolution 1624 (2005) in its dialogue with Member States. The Committee will also continue to contribute to the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

The Committee welcomes the support it receives from Member States, the United Nations Secretariat and international, regional and subregional organizations and appreciates the assistance of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate.

The Committee would appreciate it if the present letter, together with its annex, were brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council and issued as a document of the Council.

(*Signed*) Mohammed **Loulichki**
Chair
Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism

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Annex

Work programme of the Counter-Terrorism Committee for 2013

I. Introduction

1. The Counter-Terrorism Committee is required to ensure the full implementation by Member States of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) in accordance with the provisions of the resolution. The Committee is further directed to include in its dialogue with Member States their efforts to implement Security Council resolution 1624 (2005).

2. Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) and all subsequent relevant Security Council resolutions, presidential statements and reports of the Committee constitute the guidance for the work of the Committee and of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate.

II. Work programme

3. The Committee will continue to pursue a strategic and transparent approach to its work and seek to raise the visibility of its work within the broader United Nations and counter-terrorism community. In doing so, the Committee, acting in close consultation with the Executive Directorate and the Secretariat, will continue to streamline its working methods, as appropriate, to enable it to devote more time to achieving the priority objectives set out below.

A. Monitoring and promoting the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001)

4. The Committee and the Executive Directorate will collaborate actively with Member States to facilitate the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001).

5. The Committee will complete the replacement of the preliminary implementation assessment by the detailed implementation survey and the overview of implementation assessment. The Committee looks forward to the introduction by the Executive Directorate of the detailed implementation survey and the overview of implementation assessment and to briefing Member States on these new diagnostic tools, which are intended to enhance the Committee's work to identify challenges faced by Member States and facilitate the delivery of targeted technical assistance in that regard.

6. The Committee will continue its discussion of thematic and regional issues proposed by the Chair in accordance with proposals of the members of the Committee, the Executive Directorate and the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, and will also consider any additional proposals aimed at facilitating implementation of its priority recommendations to Member States.

7. Acting in close cooperation with the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) and the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) and in accordance with its mandate, the Committee will pay special attention to States concerning which information on the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001) is lacking and to discuss how best to enhance its dialogue with those States.

8. The Committee will continue to consider additional ways to address the cases of States whose implementation efforts do not meet the requirements of resolution 1373 (2001), with a view to strengthening their cooperation and dialogue with the Committee.

9. The Committee will monitor the preparations for visits to be conducted during the period from 1 January to 31 December 2013. It will also take steps to ensure that the visits have the effect of enhancing States' implementation of resolution 1373 (2001), assess the results of those visits, and consider appropriate follow-up actions. The Committee will pay special attention to ensuring the streamlining and efficiency of the post-visit follow-up work of the Executive Directorate, in accordance with the recommendations submitted by the Executive Directorate to, and approved by, the Committee in 2012. The Committee will take initial stock of the revised procedures for post-visit follow-up work at the end of 2013 (the conclusion of the current country-visit cycle).

10. The Committee, assisted by the Executive Directorate, will organize a special meeting, open to the wider United Nations membership, and other special events, focusing on key aspects of the Committee's mandate.

11. On the basis of information provided by the Executive Directorate, the Committee will submit to the Security Council a report on the Executive Directorate's work, for consideration by the Council as part of its comprehensive review of the Executive Directorate. In accordance with Security Council resolution 1963 (2010), the Committee will submit the report to the Council prior to the expiration of the Executive Directorate's mandate on 31 December 2013.

12. Pursuant to resolution 1963 (2010), the Committee, assisted by the Executive Directorate, will work to identify available practices, elements and good standards that might help Member States to develop their respective comprehensive and integrated counter-terrorism strategies.

13. In order to increase the transparency of the Committee's work, the Chair will continue, as appropriate, to hold periodic informal briefings for Member States. In addition, the Chair will request the Executive Directorate, in close cooperation with relevant members of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, to hold periodic briefings for Member States on thematic and regional aspects of the implementation of resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005).

14. The Committee will continue to call for the closest possible cooperation among the expert groups of the three Security Council Committees pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011), 1373 (2001) and 1540 (2004), including, as appropriate, on information-sharing and visits, and looks forward to receiving information from the Executive Directorate on the implementation of common strategies.

B. Facilitating the delivery of technical assistance to States

15. The Committee will continue to pay close attention to the strengthening of the role of the Executive Directorate in facilitating the delivery of technical assistance to Member States for the implementation of resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005). In this context, the Committee will continue to seek opportunities to match current and potential donors/providers with recipients in order to enhance the dialogue between the donor community and recipient States.

16. The Committee, assisted by the Executive Directorate, will continue its close cooperation with relevant international, regional and subregional organizations aimed at enhancing the capacity of Member States to fully implement resolution 1373 (2001) and at facilitating the delivery of technical assistance.

17. The Committee, assisted by the Executive Directorate and in close cooperation, as appropriate, with the support office of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and other relevant entities, as well as with relevant bilateral and regional assistance providers, will continue to assess Member States' technical assistance needs with a view to exploring ways to facilitate the delivery of appropriate technical assistance.

C. Maintaining dialogue with States on the implementation of resolution 1624 (2005)

18. In accordance with resolution 1963 (2010), the Committee will continue to encourage the Executive Directorate to focus increased attention on Member States' implementation of resolution 1624 (2005) and to work with States to develop strategies aimed at preventing terrorist acts and countering incitement of terrorist acts motivated by extremism and intolerance, in accordance with their obligations under international law, including human rights law, humanitarian law and refugee law.

19. The Committee will continue to encourage States that have not yet submitted a report on their implementation of resolution 1624 (2005) to do so. The Committee will also guide and support the Executive Directorate in its efforts to achieve full implementation of its plan of action for the implementation of resolution 1624 (2005), approved by the Committee in 2011.

20. On the basis of reports received from States and information gathered during its visits, the Committee will continue to explore the States' need for technical assistance in implementing resolution 1624 (2005) and facilitate the provision of such assistance, as appropriate.

D. Implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy

21. On the basis of the Executive Directorate's participation in the activities of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, the Committee will continue to contribute to the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The Executive Directorate will brief the Committee, on a regular basis, on its activities within the framework of the Task Force, and continue its discussions on issues relating to the implementation of the Strategy.

III. Other matters

22. The Committee, acting in close consultation with the Executive Directorate and the Secretariat, will consider possible ways of continuing to streamline its working methods, and continue its cooperation and dialogue with relevant international and regional organizations on its counter-terrorism endeavours.

Appendix

Work programme of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate for 2013

I. Introduction

1. The work programme of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2013 has been prepared in accordance with the relevant provisions of the report of the Counter-Terrorism Committee on its revitalization (S/2004/124, annex) and takes into account the work programme of the Committee for the same period, as well as directions provided to it by the Security Council in its resolution 1963 (2010).

2. The Executive Directorate will continue to assist the Committee to achieve its objectives in the areas defined in the Committee's work programme; to report regularly to the Committee on its work, including in its semi-annual report; and to respond to any additional requests made during the reporting period.

II. Monitoring and promoting the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001)

A. Monitoring and promoting implementation

3. In order to further enhance monitoring of the implementation of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) by the Member States the Executive Directorate will introduce the detailed implementation survey and the overview of implementation assessment, thereby completing the replacement of the preliminary implementation assessments by the new instruments. The Executive Directorate will assist the Committee in briefing Member States on these new diagnostic tools, which are intended to enhance the Committee's work to identify challenges faced by Member States and facilitate the delivery of targeted technical assistance in that regard.

4. The Executive Directorate will also continue its constructive dialogue with Member States, through meetings held at United Nations Headquarters, visits, workshops and videoconferences with officials in the relevant capitals, in order to inform the Committee about Member States' implementation of the relevant counter-terrorism resolutions, as reflected in their responses to the detailed implementation survey and the overview of implementation assessment, provide information about new counter-terrorism measures taken and updates on the facilitation of technical assistance delivery, and indicate further needs in this area.

5. Acting in close cooperation with the relevant international, regional and subregional organizations, and on behalf of the Committee, the Executive Directorate will prepare and conduct visits to up to 14 Member States, with their consent, as approved by the Committee. It will also continue to update the Committee on a regular basis regarding follow-up to its previous visits to Member States. Furthermore, the Executive Directorate will, at the end of 2013, assist the Committee in taking initial stock of the revised procedures for post-visit follow-up work.

6. The Executive Directorate will assist the Committee in the organization of a special meeting of the Committee open to the wider United Nations membership, and other special events, focusing on key aspects of the Committee's mandate.

7. The Executive Directorate will submit a report, for the consideration of the Committee, as part of the comprehensive review of its work by the Security Council prior to the expiration of the mandate of the Executive Directorate on 31 December 2013 in accordance with Security Council resolution 1963 (2010).

8. The Executive Directorate will contribute to the discussions on thematic and regional issues of relevance to the Committee's work by making presentations to the Committee on issues related to the implementation of resolutions 1373 (2001), 1624 (2005) and 1963 (2010). The Executive Directorate will also continue to hold thematic and regional briefings for the wider United Nations membership, in accordance with the request of the Committee.

B. Enhancing cooperation towards a better implementation of resolution 1373 (2001)

9. The Executive Directorate will further enhance its cooperation with the relevant United Nations bodies, including the Monitoring Team of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) and the Expert Group of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), as well as with various international, regional and subregional organizations, including in the context of the Committee's visits to States. In this regard, the Executive Directorate will continue to promote the common strategy for the submission of responses by States, jointly developed with the Monitoring Team and the Expert Group, and will continue to share information about relevant technical assistance needs.

10. The Executive Directorate, acting together with donors and other relevant partner organizations, will intensify its regional and subregional approaches to the pursuit of initiatives already launched or planned in the areas of prevention of abuse of the non-profit sector to finance terrorism; illicit cross-border movement of cash and other bearer negotiable instruments; freezing of terrorist assets; enhancement of the counter-terrorism capacities of police officers, prosecutors and judges; effective border control and management; and promoting cooperation among relevant subregional entities.

11. Under the guidance of the Committee, the Executive Directorate will participate actively in and support all relevant activities undertaken within the framework of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, including through active involvement in the Integrated Assistance for Countering Terrorism initiative of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and in several working groups of the Task Force.

III. Facilitating the delivery of technical assistance to States

12. The Executive Directorate will continue to strengthen its role in facilitating the delivery of technical assistance for implementation of resolution 1373 (2001) aimed at increasing the capacities of Member States and regions in the fight against terrorism by addressing their counter-terrorism needs, in close cooperation with the

Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, other United Nations bodies, and bilateral and multilateral assistance providers. The Executive Directorate will also continue to explore opportunities to engage new counter-terrorism entities, such as the Task Force, the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre and the Global Counter-Terrorism Forum, in addressing those needs, taking into account the increased focus on implementation and prevention issues, and the continuing need to take a focused and regional approach. The Executive Directorate will continue to match identified priority needs with the programmes of current and potential donors/providers in order to enhance Member States' capacities to counter terrorism and strengthen the dialogue between the donor community and recipient States.

13. In its dialogue with Member States, the Executive Directorate, acting in close cooperation with the Task Force, will continue to focus increased attention on a number of issues that are common to the implementation of resolutions 1373 (2001), 1624 (2005) and 1963 (2010) and the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, including in areas relating to terrorist financing, border security, human rights, countering incitement of terrorist acts motivated by extremism and intolerance, and assisting Member States, upon their request, to develop national and regional counter-terrorism strategies.

14. The Executive Directorate will strengthen its cooperation with relevant international, regional and subregional organizations with a view to enhancing States' capacities to fully implement resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005) and to facilitate the provision of technical assistance.

IV. Human rights and the implementation of resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005)

15. In accordance with the Committee's policy guidance on human rights and pursuant to paragraph 10 of resolution 1963 (2010), the Executive Directorate will further develop its activities in the areas of human rights and the rule of law with respect to the implementation by States of resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005). Those activities will include ensuring that relevant information is included in the overview of implementation assessment and the detailed implementation survey prepared for each State; taking account of relevant issues in the planning and conduct of country visits; integrating relevant information into visit reports; and promoting in all activities of the Executive Directorate, including facilitation of technical assistance, a consistent and even-handed approach to human rights issues relevant to resolution 1373 (2001) and resolution 1624 (2005). The Executive Directorate will work to strengthen its engagement with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the promotion and protection of human rights while countering terrorism, and other human rights entities, as appropriate. It will also strengthen its analytical framework through continued participation in the Working Group on Protecting Human Rights while Countering Terrorism of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force.

V. Promoting the implementation of resolution 1624 (2005)

16. The Executive Directorate will continue to include the implementation of resolution 1624 (2005) in its dialogue with States and will encourage those States that have not yet submitted a report on their implementation of the resolution to do so. The Executive Directorate will continue to introduce thematic discussions on resolution 1624 (2005) at Committee meetings, as appropriate, including on possible approaches to promoting more effective implementation of the resolution and to facilitating technical assistance delivery. The Executive Directorate's work on resolution 1624 (2005) will be conducted in accordance with the Committee's guidance and will, in particular, reflect elements and objectives set out in resolution 1963 (2010). The Executive Directorate will continue to conduct, and provide updates on, the various activities identified in the plan of action for the implementation of resolution 1624 (2005) in accordance with resolution 1963 (2010).

VI. Administration and Information Office of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate

17. The Executive Directorate will continue to promote the Committee's communications strategy in order to enhance understanding of the work of the United Nations, the Committee and the Executive Directorate in the field of counter-terrorism. This work will include highlighting the key issues and outcomes of events held in New York and away from Headquarters during 2013, as well as the Committee's efforts to implement the relevant Security Council mandates and the Global Strategy.

18. The Administration and Information Office will continue to update the Committee's website and maintain it in all six official languages of the United Nations. The Executive Directorate will, as necessary, continue to update and distribute the Committee's press kits, in hard copy and electronic format, and continue to distribute copies of the technical guide to the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001), both in hard copy, in English, and electronically in all six official languages. The 2011 global surveys of the implementation of resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005) will continue to be distributed in hard copy, in English, and subsequently in electronic format in all six official languages.

19. The Administration and Information Office will ensure that all documentation submitted to the Committee is accurate and consistent. It will also circulate documents through the "document tracker" located on the secure part of the website in order to promote the effective and timely distribution of information among Member States and in the Secretariat. User names and passwords will continue to be changed on a quarterly basis in order to protect the integrity of the information.

20. The Administration and Information Office will continue to administer the database and computer systems of the Executive Directorate, including the documents and records management system, which was upgraded at the end of 2012. In order to promote greater efficiency of the work of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, the Office will remain ready to share the database with the Monitoring Team of the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011), the Expert Group of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), the Terrorism

Prevention Branch of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the staff of the Task Force.

21. The Administration and Information Office will submit to the Controller the 2014 budget for the Executive Directorate, for consideration by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly, and will also seek extrabudgetary funding through the recently established trust fund for the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate in order to secure resources for activities approved by the Committee that require financial support outside the scope of the regular budget.

United Nations S/2013/162

Security Council

Distr.: General
15 March 2013

Original: English

Letter dated 15 March 2013 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of the remarks of the spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, issued on 14 March 2013, with regard to the Korean Armistice Agreement (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Sin** Son Ho
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

13-26074 (E) 150313

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Annex to the letter dated 15 March 2013 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Reply of the spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to a question put by the Korean Central News Agency with regard to the Korean Armistice Agreement

Pyongyang, 14 March (Korean Central News Agency (KCNA)): A spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea gave the following answer to a question put by KCNA on Thursday as the United States and the forces kowtowing to it are insisting that the Korean Armistice Agreement cannot be unilaterally dissolved:

The Supreme Command of the Korean People's Army had announced that the Armistice Agreement will be totally nullified from 11 March when the United States nuclear war exercises aimed at stifling the Democratic People's Republic of Korea get into full swing.

Accordingly, the army and people of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea turned out, in an all-out action, aimed at foiling the United States moves aimed at a nuclear war and reunifying the country at an early date, completely unrestrained by the Armistice Agreement.

But the United States and its allies are asserting that the Armistice Agreement was adopted with mutual agreement and that it cannot be dissolved unilaterally.

This shows a sleight of hand they have employed to use the threadbare Armistice Agreement to evade the tough counteraction of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Unlike other agreements, the Armistice Agreement is not one that requires bilateral agreement to be rendered invalid from its peculiar nature and it will be naturally nullified if one side does not abide by it. The Agreement has long been invalid due to the systematic scrapping of it by the United States and the unreasonable behaviour of the United Nations Security Council, which has backed the United States moves for the last six decades.

Armistice could remain in name only, however, because the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has exercised the utmost self-restraint and patience. The United States and the South Korean puppet forces are now holding "Key Resolve" and "Foal Eagle" joint military drills in order to light a fuse for a nuclear war, with the involvement of huge aggression troops, the biggest violation of the Armistice Agreement, and as an act of scrapping it.

In the prevailing situation, which is little different from a war in fact, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea can no longer be bound to the Armistice Agreement. This is a stark reality in which the Armistice Agreement is no longer valid.

The United States will have to hold full responsibility for scrapping and finally nullifying the Armistice Agreement, in the event that the situation entails a catastrophic consequence on the Korean Peninsula.